THURSDAY
June 20, 2024

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MAHARASHTRA POLLS

'No decision yet on *Mahayuti*'s CM face'

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1985 BOMBING

India to remember Kanishka victims

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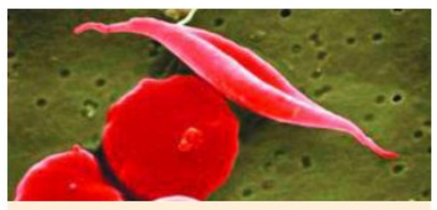

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New treatment likely for sickle cell disease

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WORLD REFUGEE DAY

A story of displacement to empowerment

India's refugee-care model stands out

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SUPER 8 CAMPAIGN

Rohit's India takes on Rashid's Afghanistan

SPORT » PAGE 15

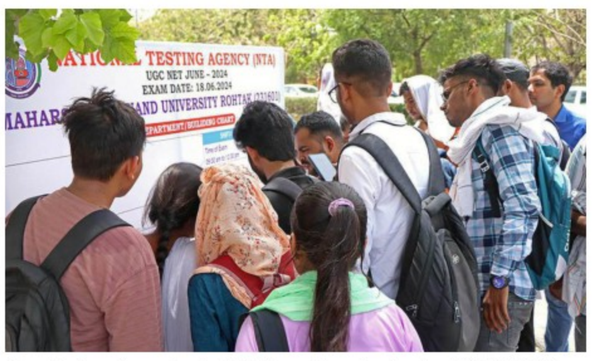
UGC-NET cancelled over suspected 'irregularity'; govt. orders CBI probe

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Education Ministry late on Wednesday announced the cancellation of the UGC-NET held on Tuesday, after inputs from the Ministry of Home Affairs suggested that the "integrity of the exam had been compromised".

The CBI would probe the issue, it said.

The University Grants Commission-National Eligibility Test is conducted by the National Testing Agency (NTA).



Candidates at a centre in Rohtak on Tuesday for the UGC-NET. ANI

The development comes at a time when the NTA is embroiled in a controversy over irregularities in the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET) for medical and allied courses.

The UGC-NET is conducted twice a year to determine the eligibility of candidates for the positions of Assistant Professor, Junior Research Fellowship-Assistant Professor and for Ph.D. admissions.

The Ministry of Education said on social media platform X, "Government is committed to ensure the sanctity of examinations and protect the interest of students."

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Hold talks with Dalai Lama, U.S. lawmakers tell China

China's claim of having 'ancient' ties with Tibet is 'ridiculous' , they say; U.S. will not let China interfere in the 'succession' of the Dalai Lama, says U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee chair

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Days after the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Resolve Tibet Act that called upon the Chinese government to engage with the Dalai Lama, an influential group of U.S. lawmakers met the Tibetan spiritual leader at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh on Wednesday.

Addressing a rare public meeting, they said the U.S. will not allow Beijing to interfere in the "succession" of the Dalai Lama.

'Unwavering support'

The delegation, led by the Republican chair of the U.S. House Foreign Affairs Committee Michael McCaul, expressed a firm U.S. position on Tibet and described China's claim of having ancient links with Tibet as "ridiculous".

Former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama greet each other in Kangra on Wednesday. ANI

"Our support for the Tibetan people is unwavering. Your dreams for better days remain alive. Beijing is relocating entire communities under the guise of development activities. We know they are trying to control Tibetan Buddhism. It is time for Beijing to engage in unconditional dialogue with His Holiness," Representative Gregory Meeks said at the public gathering in McLeodganj, the seat of the Central Tibetan Administration.

An Indian official source said the U.S. lawmakers are on a "private visit" and declined to address the remarks made by them.

China on Tuesday said it will take steps to safeguard its sovereignty. "China will take resolute measures to firmly defend its sovereignty, security and development interests," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lin Jian said on Tuesday.

Speaking at the beginning of the event, Mr. McCaul recollected the circumstances that surrounded the exile of the Dalai Lama in 1959 and how he led 80,000 followers across the Himalayas into India to safeguard the unique Tibetan culture and way of life.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Govt. clears MSP hike for 14 kharif crops

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday gave its nod to raise the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy by 5.35% to ₹2,300 a quintal for the 2024-25 kharif marketing season, a decision that comes ahead of the Assembly elections in Haryana, Maharashtra, Jharkhand and Delhi.

In the first major decision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's third term in office, the Cabinet approved MSP hike for all 14 kharif season crops, in alignment with the government's "clear policy" of keeping MSPs at least 1.5 times above the cost of production as calculated by the government, Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. However, only four of these crops have MSPs that will provide farmers with a margin of more than 50% above production costs.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

'Renukaswamy died due to haemorrhage'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The post-mortem report of Renukaswamy, who was allegedly murdered by actor Darshan and his associates, has concluded that "the death is due to shock and haemorrhage as a result of multiple blunt injuries", according to documents obtained by *The Hindu*.

Police sources said the doctors have identified three significant wounds on the body. He had suffered a major head injury, which was bleeding, and the accused had applied turmeric in an attempt to stop it. He sustained this injury when the accused allegedly banged his head against a truck parked in the shed where he was tortured and killed.

The deceased reportedly lost consciousness after this and was shifted indoors into a room in the shed, where the accused applied turmeric to his head.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 2

NEARBY

Dengue cases rise by 59% this year compared to last

BENGALURU
Dengue is on the rise in the State with the total number of cases till this June 18 touching 4,886. This is 59% more than the number of cases reported during the corresponding period last year. » Page 3

City couple finds creepy surprise in Amazon package

BENGALURU
A Bengaluru couple, who had ordered an Xbox controller from Amazon, has said that upon receiving the delivery, they noticed that a cobra was stuck in adhesive tape used for the packaging. » Page 2

Will contest from Channapatna if party wishes: DKS

BENGALURU
After a setback in the LS polls, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Wednesday embarked on a temple run in the Channapatna Assembly segment, which will soon go for byelection. » PAGE 4

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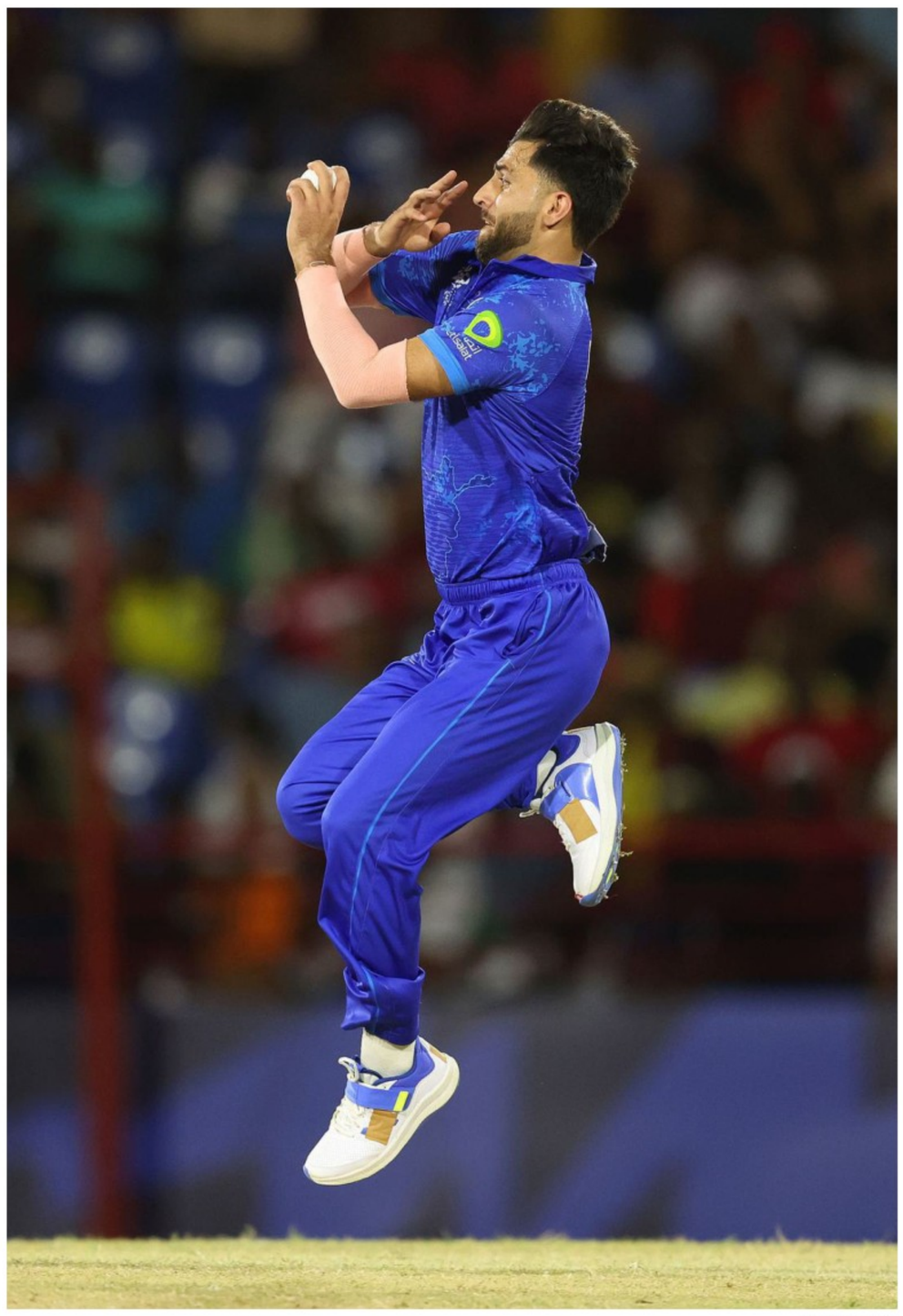
No longer a shock or upset: Afghanistan's coming-of-age story

Head coach Trott has played a key role in making his players believe that they are far better than just blazing cameos or the occasional spell of brilliance with the ball; the team's boldness with the bat has been complemented by a greater maturity, and game and situational awareness



GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik
BARBADOS

Who would have imagined, after 40 group stage matches, that an Afghanistan player would be sitting atop both the leading run-scorers' and wicket-takers' charts in the T20 World Cup?

The Afghans were quite the unstoppable force until they ran into a tartar against co-hosts West Indies in St. Lucia. They brushed aside Uganda by 125 runs and Papua New Guinea by seven wickets with nearly five overs in hand, but it was with their defeat of New Zealand that announced themselves as serious contenders.

Changing tides

Afghanistan's strength has traditionally been spin with talismanic captain Rashid Khan as the destroyer in chief. Support has come from Mohammad Nabi, Mujeeb Ur Rahman and the fast-rising Noor Ahmed. Against New Zealand, their commanding 84-run victory was fashioned by a left-arm quick who has blown more cold than hot in the past, but who is having a World Cup to savour.

Fazalhaq Farooqi *(right in pic)*, only 23, has already played 70 white-ball internationals. The last four, all in this World Cup, have brought him a tournament-high 12 of his 49 wickets in 38 T20Is. He is three wickets clear of seven bowlers perched on nine wickets apiece, among them New Zealand swing exponent Trent Boult, and Akeal Hosein, the West Indies left-arm spinner, signifying that at least so far in this competition, left is right when it comes to bowling.

Farooqi's 12 wickets have come at an average of 6.66, the second highest among the top eight wicket-takers. He boasts an economy of 5.68 runs per over and a strike-rate of 7.16 balls per wicket, the best of anyone who has sent down more than 24 deliveries. The Afghan pacer killed off the contest against the Kiwis early on with the scalps of Finn Allen (first ball), Devon Conway and Daryl Mitchell in his first spell to rock the New Zealand chase.

Afghanistan is an outfit that is comfortable putting runs on the board, and then using their spinners to strangle the opposition. New Zealand was asked to hunt down 160 but fell woefully short, bowled out for 75; Farooqi exposed the soft underbelly, and Rashid and Nabi shared six wickets to consign Kane Williamson's men to one of their heaviest defeats in all World Cups, ensuring a rare first-round elimination for a team that has made it a habit of inhabiting the knockout rounds in ICC events.

Afghanistan's 159 for six had been shaped by fearless opener Rahmanullah Gurbaz *(left in pic)*, who smashed five fours and as many sixes in his 56-ball 80. Gurbaz is the World Cup's highest run-scorer, at 167, two runs ahead of West Indies' Nicholas Pooran. His runs have been attractive and pacy , with an average of 41.75, strike-rate of 150.45, ten fours and ten sixes in 111 balls faced. Gurbaz, who played the business end of IPL 2024 for eventual champions Kolkata Knight Riders after Phil Salt returned to England for national duty, has suddenly emerged as a dependable attacking option at the top of the batting tree, raising hope that Afghanistan is ready to progress beyond 'dangerous floaters' capable of the odd upset or two to genuine title aspirants.

Just a number

The ICC rankings place the Afghans at No. 10 in the 20-over format, but rankings count for little, as USA showed against Pakistan and Nepal nearly did against South Africa. Not so long ago, Afghanistan was a novelty, its intrepid batting approach and assortment of spinners of the 'regular' and 'mystery' types lending allure and mystique. The Afghans touched a chord with their bold, carefree - sometimes careless - approach and were universally popular because their cricketing journey is a great story of resilience and determination. The unbelievable propensity to look adversity in the eye and make it surrender with the broadness of their smiles, the bigness of their hearts, the *joie de vivre* that accompanies their every step on the cricket field will always have the crowd rooting for the South Asian side.

Afghanistan has now added an inner steel that has come through experience - the experience of playing more consistently at the international level, the experience of rubbing shoulders almost through the year with the best in the business in the multiple franchise-based leagues where they have been hot properties. Its boldness with the bat has been complemented by a greater maturity and game and situational awareness. Rashid Khan's men have gotten much better at assessing conditions, and have swapped their one-size-fits-all mindset to customise their game to meet the need of the hour and is therefore a far more potent force.

For all its assortment of spin riches, it's not always that the bowlers make up for the lack of batting might. If Afghanistan is now a team that everyone is truly wary of, it's through the emergence of Gurbaz as an influential factor, of Azmatullah Omazai as a multi-geared batter, of another of its former skippers, Gulbadin Naib, delivering on the promise that thrust him into the limelight, of Zadrans Ibrahim and Najibullah to pull their weight, of Nabi and Karim Janat and Rashid to provide flair and innovativeness towards the back-end of an innings.

These aren't names which will send shivers down the spines of opposing bowling attacks, but when they come together as they have done thrice in this World Cup, they do more than enough to allow their bowlers to get to work. Earlier, it was about tackling the spinners with care, if not circumspection, and targeting the fast bowlers. Now that Farooqi, Naveen-ul-Haq, and Omarzai have established themselves as wicket-takers with the new ball, the bowling unit's all-round strength and depth has lent a new dimension to Afghanistan's challenge.

No more underdogs

Former England batter and Afghanistan head coach, Jonathan Trott, has played a key role in making his players believe that they are far better than just blazing cameos or the occasional spell of brilliance with the ball. To effect a change in collective mindset is no easy task; Trott never took the easy way out even when he was a player, and it is no surprise that his phlegmatic messaging is beginning to resonate with his wards. Trott has been mindful of retaining the core essence of Afghan cricket, which revolves around flair and the players being themselves; by fusing that with ambition and self-belief, he has developed a vital core group that is one huge engine room at whose heart is Rashid, the pixie leg-spinner who also bats as if the book on technique was never written, or at least as if he has never even spotted it, let alone rifled through it.

The 104-run drubbing against West Indies couldn't have come at a more opportune time, in a manner of speaking. Ahead of the Super Eight, it must have been a chastening wake-up call, exposing the Afghans to the reality that they may not always have the luxury of batting first, that they will be stretched and punished and harried by powerful batting line-ups capable of making merry on good batting surfaces.

In Group 1 of the Super 8 phase, Afghanistan's mettle will be seriously tested. Up against them are India, at the Kensington Oval in Bridgetown on Thursday, followed by Australia and Bangladesh. On paper, this is the lighter of the two pools; Group 2 is populated by defending champions England, South Africa, and co-hosts West Indies and United States, the latter showing in the first stage that they are no pushovers. Afghanistan will fancy a defeat of Bangladesh and a defeat of at least one of India or Australia to make a strong push for a semifinal berth, and who is to say that they wouldn't succeed, especially considering they themselves are beginning to embrace the champion mindset.

India will spot a potential banana skin on Thursday. In January, the Afghans pushed a near full-strength India close in a three-match T20I series, the final match in Bengaluru going to a second Super Over after Rohit Sharma and Rinku Singh had rallied them from the depths of 22 for four. That night, left-arm quick Fareed Ahmad had done the damage with three wickets, among them Virat Kohli for a first-ball duck. Kohli is coming off a first-ball dismissal in his last outing, also dismissed by a left-arm pacer, but such are the riches Rashid is able to summon that Fareed hasn't played a T20I since February though he is in the World Cup squad.

India, vastly more experienced and with an array of household names, will begin Thursday as obvious favourites, its challenge boosted by the No. 1 ranking it has held for a while now. No. 1 vs No. 10 might appear a battle of unequals, but nothing bridges the gulf between teams more than the 20-over format. In any case, Afghanistan is a better unit than its ranking would indicate. Rohit and his boys won't view the game as a walk in the park, a glorified open nets session before their showdown against Bangladesh in North Sound on Saturday. Afghanistan taken lightly is an open invitation for disaster, a recipe for the unsavoury taste of humble pie. That by itself is a huge victory for Afghanistan, though it is on the other more meaningful victory that Rashid's men will have their eyes on.

THE GIST

- Afghanistan's strength has traditionally been spin with talismanic captain Rashid Khan as the destroyer-in-chief
- The Afghans touched a chord with their bold, carefree – sometimes careless – approach and were universally popular because their cricketing journey is a great story of resilience and determination
- In Group 1 of the Super Eight phase, Afghanistan's mettle will be seriously tested. Up against them are India first, at the Kensington Oval on Thursday

From Page One

'Renukaswamy died due to haemorrhage'

Doctors have reportedly opined that this injury led to a haemorrhage, and he is suspected to have died after this.

However, in the post-mortem report the doctors have not categorically said this injury led to his death.

The deceased also had a fracture in his rib cage, allegedly sustained when the accused, reportedly Darshan, stamped on his chest and kicked him.

Police sources said it was the post-mortem report that threw light on the victim being administered electric shocks, a fact that the police did not know and the accused had tried to suppress.

The police have now recovered a megger, an insulation tester, that was used to administer electric shocks to the victim, and one of the accused, Dhanraj, had allegedly brought it to the shed that fateful day.

Darshan's wife Vijayalakshmi records statement; gets injunction order against media

Police custody of the actor and other accused in the Renukaswamy murder case ends today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vijayalakshmi, wife of actor Darshan who is accused in the murder of Renukaswamy, on Wednesday visited the Annapoorneshwarinagar police station, where all the accused in the case are being lodged, and met her husband for the first time since his arrest. She also made a statement on social media for the first time on the day.

Ms. Vijayalakshmi took to Instagram and posted an interim injunction order issued by the X Additional City Civil and Sessions Judge, Bengaluru.

It restrains the media from "printing, publishing, telecasting news or any other information touching the personal and family life of the plaintiff [Ms. Vijayalakshmi] and her husband Darshan Srinivas...". It also restrains the media from publishing any unverified information regarding the investigation into the case.

A file photo of actor Darshan with his wife Vijayalakshmi.

"At the outset, I express my heartfelt condolences to the family of the deceased Sri. Renukaswamy. Alongside, the last few days have been full of anguish for Darshan, myself, my teenage son & all of Darshan's friends, family and fans....I have full faith in Ma Chamundeshwari & in our legal system. Let Justice Prevail. (sic)," she posted on Instagram.

Meanwhile, Ms. Vijayalakshmi recorded her statement in the case on Wednesday. She was summoned by the police, as they had recovered the shoes the actor was allegedly wearing during the crime, from her flat.

After the actor's arrest, when the police went to his house for a *mahazar*, they found his clothes but not his shoes. His costume manager had allegedly shifted them to his wife's house, from where they was recovered.

The police have collected DNA samples of nine of the accused, including Darshan, Pavithra Gowda, and others, who were present at the shed, the scene of crime, to match with samples collected from there.

Meanwhile, the custody of Darshan and other accused will end on Thursday, and they will be produced before the court.

The police are unlikely to seek extension of their custody, sources added.

City couple finds creepy surprise in Amazon package

A cobra was stuck to the adhesive tape used for packaging the parcel. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A Bengaluru couple, residents of Sarjapur, who had ordered an Xbox controller from Amazon, has said that upon receiving the delivery, they noticed that an Indian cobra (Naja Naja) was stuck in the adhesive tape used for the packaging.

According to Tanvi, they ordered the Xbox controller on June 16 and the package was delivered on Tuesday. Ms. Tanvi shared a video on X (formerly Twitter) on the incident. "Ordered an Xbox controller from @amazonIN and received a free snake with it!" she said in her post.

To her post, Amazon replied on X stating, "We're sorry to know about the inconvenience you've had with the Amazon order. We'd like to have this checked. Please share the required details ... and our team will get back to you soon with an update."

The couple claimed that the package was directly handed over to them by the delivery partner.

HC ends efforts of blacklisted Iraqi national to enter India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has put an end to the efforts of a 33-year-old Iraqi national to somehow come to India, even by changing the spelling of his name, tampering with visa sticker, and making pseudo-claims of medical treatment, as his name was blacklisted, for the grant of visa to enter India, for overstaying during his earlier two visits.

Sagad Kareem Ismael of Baghdad had filed a petition through his Indian special power of attorney holder, Muntandher Ahmed, 22, of Bengaluru, seeking a direction to the Ministry of External Affairs to grant him visa to enter India for medial treatment as per his application filed in February, 2024.

However, Justice M. Nagaprasanna, who noticed the petitioner had come multiple times to India, and was blacklisted for overstaying and was now trying to come to India again for 'pseudo' treatment, dismissed the petition.

Ismael first came to Bengaluru in 2012 for pursuing a pharmacy course and he was sent out in 2017 after he overstayed for 11 months after the expiry of visa, and his name was blacklisted to enter India till May 2019. He made futile efforts to come back during the blacklisted period.

After this period, he was allowed to come on a medical visa twice to undergo treatment and again was blacklisted for overstaying. He filed a petition in 2020 questioning rejection of the visa, but this petition is still pending for adjudication as it was not filed in the proper format.

Following this, he changed the spelling of his name as "Sagad Kareem Ismael", and secured a new passport. Later, he secured a medical certificate, issued by a hospital in Baghdad, for treatment in a private hospital in Bengaluru, which also recommended grant of the visa.

With the new documents, he applied for the visa again but his application was rejected. This led him to execute a special power of attorney, which is not valid in India, in Baghdad in favour of Mr. Muntandher to file the present petition.

Prajwal remanded in SIT custody

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, accused in three cases of rape, was remanded in the custody of the Special Investigation Team for eight days, by the Special Court of Magistrate for criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs on Wednesday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed to the general public that, my client **Mr. SIKANDAR, S/o. Mr. Fayaz Ahmed** residing at No.218, 8th Cross, JHBCS Layout, Kumaraswamy Layout, Bangalore 560078 has lost the **original Sale Deed vide Document No.4176/86-87,** Book 1, Volume No.2470, Pages:135 to 136, executed on:21-10-1986 registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore South Taluk executed by Jaraganahalli H.B.C.S ltd., in favour of Mr. Musharaff Ahmed Khan and Allottment Letter and Possession Certificate issued by the said JHBCS on:06-06-2024 while in transit. In this connection, my client has lodged a police complaint to the Karnataka State Police (U/s 155 CrPC) Lost Article **Report Serial No.1106523,** Police Unit : Bangalore City, Lost Report No.1106523/2024, dt:19-06-2024. Hence, if anybody finds the said Documents please inform/return to the below address within 7 days.

Srinivasa S.A., Advocate
No.79/B, 7th Main, 50 feet Road,
BSK 1st Stage, Bangalore-560 050.
Mob: 9008003449
E-mail : srinilegals@gmail.com
Place : Bangalore Date : 19-06-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of my client **Mr.Imran Pasha, S/o.Anwar Pasha** to bring to the notice of the general public that the Original documents i.e., **(1)** Sale Deed bearing doc.no.3254/1986-87, in Book-1, Volume No.3941 at pages 197 to 199, dated: 27.01.1987, which was registered in the Office of the Sub-Registrar, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore and **(2)** G.P.A bearing doc.no.474/1995-96 in Addl. Book-4, Volume No.150 at Pages 33 to 36, dated:15.09.1995, which was registered in the office of the Sub-Registrar Srirampuram, Bangalore, are lost.
If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document, they shall return the same or contact the undersigned in writing within **07 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Eastern Portion of the property bearing **No.445,** Old No.420/B-98, Gramathana Khaneshumari No.07, Khata No.445, New Municipal No.81, situated at **Gangondanahalli Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk** and bounded on:
East by : House belongs to Francis, West by: Remaining Western Portion of the same Property, North by : Church Property, South by : Road.

Raviprakash.H.C, Advocate,
#644/32, 6th Main, Vijayanagar,
Bengaluru-560040.
Mobile No : 8660025758 / 9980052890

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E-Tender Notice No: Y/E.29/2024-25/21
Dated : 07-06-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-Tenders for the following work.

Name of the Work	Approx. Value
Outsourcing of OHE & PSI activities in newly electrified Mysuru - Hassan & Hassan - Sakleshpur sections for a period of 2 years.	Rs. 4,74,46,652.54

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Upto 11:00 Hrs on 28-06-2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
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South Western Railway - SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
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PUBLIC NOTICE

That the original Allotment Letter dated 14.12.1977 bearing No. KHB.5M5.74. LIGH.77 with respect to Property bearing No. 222, situated at L.I.G.H.S Block, Koramangala Housing Colony, Bangalore South, Bangalore, measuring East to West 9.29 Meters and North to South measuring 15.54 Square meters, 144.37 Square Meters originally allotted to Mr. Srinivas by Karnataka Housing Board has been lost.
And this is to inform the general public that the above said Original Allotment Letter is lost. Any person/s, whoever finds the same is required to intimate the undersigned, at the address given below, within Fifteen(15) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which, any such claim/s in, to or on the Schedule Property or any part thereof shall be deemed to have been waived for all intents and purposes and the same would not be binding on my Client and my Client will proceed ahead with the purchase of Schedule Property .
Dated 18th day of June 2024 Sd/-
N. Ramadevi, MA., LLM
Advocate (KAR 2362/06)
No. 303, 2nd Block, 3rd Stage,
Basaveshwarnagar, Bangalore-560079
Mob: 9731422227

Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd.
(CIN: U40108JH2013SGC001704)
Regd. Office: 2nd Floor, JUSNL (SLDC) Building, Kusai Colony, Doranda, Ranchi-02
(E-mail:cetjusnl@gmail.com

TENDER CANCELLATION NOTICE

Due to unavoidable circumstances, tender invited vide NIT no. 737/PR/JUSNL/2023-24 for Procurement of Battery Set for various GSS in JUSNL is hereby cancelled.

स्वहित एवं राष्ट्रहित में ऊर्जा बचावें। कृपया अपनी शिकयतों को 18003456570(कॉल सेन्टर) पर दर्ज करायें।

PR No. 322880

PR 326934 Jharkhand Urja Sancharan Nigam Ltd(24-25)#D

Sd/-
General Manager, C&M (NWBP) JUSNL,Ranchi

NORTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
No. AGC-EL-C-T-EPC-01-2023-24 **Date: 14.06.2024**
E-Tender Notice
Dy. Chief Electrical Engineer (Const.), North Central Railway, Agra for and behalf of President of India invites "Open Tender" through on line only **(E-Tendering)** for the following works.
Name of work with its location: Design, Supply, Erection, Testing and Commissioning of 220/2x25 kV & 132/2x25 kV Traction Sub-station along with SP/SSPs between Mathura-Dholpur- Antri-Bina section of North Central Railway in connection with raising of speed to 160 Kmph/200 Kmph.
Approx. cost of the work: Rs. 509,72,42,747.00/- **Bid Security:** 100,00,000.00/-
Completion Period: 720 Days from the date of issue of acceptance letter including monsoon period. **Tender closing date & time:** 05.08.2024 upto 15.30 hrs., **Validity of offer:** 180 days from the date of tender opening. Tenderers can only submit their offer through web portal **www.ireps.gov.in** up to **15:30 hrs on 05.08.2024.** For full details and submission of bid please see the Indian Railways website **www.ireps.gov.in.** 1050/24(K)
@CPRONCR @northcentralrailway North central railways www.ncr.indianrailways.gov.in

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client, is intended to purchase the schedule property. The owner **M/s. AJMAL FLORA VALLEY** represents and warrant that it is the absolute owner of the Schedule Property and it has not entered into any Agreement of Sale/Development agreement/ Memorandum of Understanding, or any sort of arrangement with any person/s for sale / transfer / development of the Schedule property and that it has not created any charge or lien or encumbered the Schedule property to any other persons. Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of right, title and or interest or demand or claim or charge or lien over the Schedule property, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s to this transaction, in writing along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are basing their claim, with the undersigned, within 10 (Ten) days from the date of publication of this notice.
If, no objection is received by the undersigned as aforesaid, my client shall proceed with the above-mentioned transaction deeming that apart from the said owners no one else has any manner of right or claim or interest in or over the Schedule property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Immovable Property being a Vacant Plot bearing **Site No. 368** in the Residential Layout known as **"Ajmal Flora Valley - Phase I"** formed in Schedule 'A' Property, which site is now assessed and allotted separate **'E' Khata No.1914/368/101/2/368 and PID NO. 40-522-10, Rani Cross, 10th Ward, 3rd Division, Devanahalli, by the Town Municipal Council, Devanahalli-562110.** The boundaries and measurement of the above Site are as follows:
East by : Plot No. 410, West by : Road, North by : Road, South by : Plot No. 367
The total site area of the Schedule Property is 2400 Sq. ft.

Sd/- **K.P. Nataraj,** Advocate,
No.13, 2nd Floor, 4th Main Road,
Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018.
Ph.080-22429750, 9886209950
email: vakil.nataraj@gmail.com

BEFORE THE DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL DRT-2 AT BANGALORE
No.1, 4th Floor, Telephone House, Rajbhavan Road, Bengaluru-560001
In the matter of
OA No. 1243 / 2022
BETWEEN:
BANK OF BARODA ...APPLICANT
AND:
1) A M MOTORS
2) VIJAYA KUMARI. M ...DEFENDANTS
Summons Issued to Defendant Under Rule 23 (VIII) of the Debts Recovery Tribunal (Procedure) Rules of 1993 By Paper Publication
Whereas the Applicant has instituted an Application under Section 19 of Recovery of debts due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993 against you for recovery of a sum of 22,33,957 (Rupees Twenty two lakhs thirty three thousand and nine hundred fifty seven only) together with current and future interest, cost and other reliefs.
You are hereby required to show cause within 30 days from the date of Publication of the Summons or on **30.08.2024 at 11.00 AM** in person or by pleader/Advocate duly instructed as to why the reliefs prayed for should not be granted.
Take Notice that in case of default the Application will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Tribunal on the 04th day of June 2024.
By Order of the Tribunal
***Sd/-* Registrar**
Debts Recovery Tribunal-2
Bangalore
To:
1) A M MOTORS
Represented by Partner: Mr. Ajay. N
S/o. late S. Mahadeva, aged 31 years,
R/o. Flat No. 304, 3rd Floor,
1st Main Road V2, Sneha Apartment,
Giri Nagar, 3rd Phase, Bangalore-560085.
2) VIJAYA KUMARI. M
(Wife of late Mahadeva. S) Aged 58 years,
Flat No. 304, 3rd Floor, 1st Main Road V2,
Sneha Apartment, Giri Nagar, 3rd Phase,
Bangalore-560085.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 11/MYS/2024
Dated: 12.06.2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

SL	Name of Works	Approx. Value
1	**Sub Work-I:** Collection of Hydro metrological Data for Bridge No. 597 (4x45.72 + 8x 24.40m Girder-Netravati Bridge) at Km. 163/300-700 on Hassan- Mangaluru Junction Section, Bridge No. 28 (3x 18.30m Girder-Yagachi) at Km. 9/800-10/000 on Hassan-Mangaluru Junction section. **Sub Work -II:** Collection of Hydro metrological Data for Bridge No. 706A (1x45.72m GB-Lokapavani) at Km. 114/100-200 on KSR Bengaluru-Mysuru Section. **Sub Work-III:** Collection of Hydro metrological Data for Bridge No. 90 (16x19.30+2x6.10m Deck Girder-Tungabhadra) at Km. 339/9-17 on Harihar-Hubballi Section.	Rs. 44,83,846/-
2	Hassan-Mangaluru Junction Section - Elimination of LC No.97 at 131/400-500 & LC No.101 at KM 134/200-300 between Narimogaru-Kabaka Puttur Station by Construction of LOW Cost ROBs.	Rs. 11,51,50,885/-
3	**Sub Work-I:** Extension of PF No.1 to 450 m with high level, 2 nos. of Stainless steel Drinking water pedestals and 4 nos. of granite benches at Sivapur. **Sub Work-II:** Provision of Low cost PF shelter (60 sqm)	Rs. 1,76,76,615/-
4	**Sub Work-I:** Extension /Raising of PF1 to 557.5m High level at Kardi **Sub Work-II:** Extension /Raising of PF2 &3 to 547 m High level a Kardi	Rs. 1,53,18,551/-
5	Birur-Talguppa Section: Improvements to drainage arrangement and approach road for RUB no.37A at Km.25/900-26/ 000	Rs. 1,69,35,812/-
6	Extension of PF No.1 to 450 m with high level and other amenity works at Mavinkere. **Sub Work-I:** Extension of PF No.1 to 450 m with high level, Stainless steel Drinking water pedestals and granite benches. **Sub Work-II:** Provision of Low cost PF shelter (60 sqm)	Rs. 1,14,13,765/-
7	Improvements to drainage in cuttings by construction of side drain at Km. 380/ 900- 382/500 (LH Side), 383/500-383/800 (LH Side) between Byadgi-Haveri Station. Total 1900m length side drain.	Rs. 2,16,04,085/-
8	**Sub Work-I:** Improvements to drainage in cuttings by construction of side drain at Km.20/760-21/070 (Both Side), 21/340-21/900 (Both Side) between Amritapura-Haliyuru stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Chitradurga Sub-division. **Sub Work-2:** Improvements to drainage in cuttings by construction of side drain at Km.25/500-25/ 960 (Both Side), 31/450-31/880 (Both Side) between Haliyuru-Chitradurga stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Chitradurga Sub-division. **Sub Work-3:** Improvements to drainage in cuttings by construction of side drain at Km.43/800-44/700 (Both Side) between Chitradurga-Challakere stations in Assistant Divisional Engineer/ Chitradurga Sub-division.	Rs. 6,14,28,296/-
9	Desilting of road, cleaning of drains, dewatering of rain water accumulated and clearing of vegetations on the approaches and patch repairs works to road etc of RUBs in Birur-Chikjajur and Chikjajur-Rayadurg section in Assistant Divisional Engineer/Chitradurga sub division.	Rs. 69,12,173/-
10	Chikjajur-Karajgi section- Improvements to cess	Rs. 2,26,00,441/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 11:00 hrs. of 04.07.2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-Ord
PUB/161/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Mysuru**
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRAJWAL S/o Sreenivasa.M, No.79, Koira Hosur Village, Devanahalli Taluk, Bluru Dist-562110 have changed my name to Prajwal.S (Prajwal Sreenivasa) vide affidavit dt 19.06.24 before Notary S.Vijayakumar, Bluru.

I, LALITH Kumar Chhajed, R/a No.B-502, Mehta ambience 4th Cross, Manjunathanagar, Magadi Road, Bangalore-560023 have changed my minor daughter's name from Shreya Lalith Kumar Chhajed to Shreya Chhajed vide affidavit dt: 18.06.2024 sworn before Notary Sumangala Hegde, B'luru

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

LOST OF Reports : I have Lost my Documents in Ballari on 12/06/2024 , List of Documents : Bank Pass Book, Cheque Book, Debit Card, PAN Card, Ration Card, Voter ID Card, Educational Certificates and RBI Regarding Documents. The Lost Article Report Submitted to Police Department also. Lost Report No. 1094988/2024 Dated 12/06/2024 . Further if any one get these Documents please inform us at Vanishree Krishnaji Kulkarni 9620821480.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE HONOURABLE COURT OF THE II ND ADDITIONAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS (MACT) JUDGE AT VISAKHAPATNAM, AP.
M.V.O.P : 482/2022
Between:
Beela Paidamma & others .....Petitioners
And:
Moda Swamy Armugam & others
To – Respondent-02 ... Respondents
S.S.Siva Kumar, S/o. P.Shanmugam, R/o. # 13, 4th Main Road, NT PET, Bangalore, Karnataka-560002. Owner of the Vehicle Gas Tanker, No: KA 01 AG 6799.
NOTICE
Please take notice that the above named petitioners filed the above MVOP against you for claiming compensation and the matter coming for your appearance and stands posted to **Dt. 27-06-2024** on that day your personally or through advocate attend before the Honourable Court at **10.30a.m.** failing which the Honourable Court is decided under the court of law.
P. SUBBA REDDY, PV. UMA MAHESH Advocates for Petitioners
(Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh)

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BHARATH C YARAM IAS (2022) | Dr.GVS PAVAN DATTA IAS (2022) | THARUN PATNAIK IAS (2022) | SAKSHI MOHAN IAS (2022) | AASHNA CHAUDHARY IPS (2022)
FREE WORKSHOP Scan to Register
22nd June 2024
OFFLINE 10:30 AM
@ SosinIAS Academy, Hyd
Batch Starts
24th June 2024
Offline / Live
1st July 2024
Online
Mrs. Sosin Revella
India's Premier Faculty for Anthropology
99899 66744 / 90000 36699
www.sosinias.com Ashok Nagar X Road, Hyd-20

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, BHERU Singh Jain, R/a No.22/1, MGK Murthy Extension, 6th Main Road, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560018 have changed my minor son's name from Aayush Jain to Aayush Bheru Singh Jain vide affidavit dt: 18.06.2024 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru

I, SHAMALA.V.P, W/o Sankar Beesabathini, R/at No.26, GR Prime Apt, F No.204, 2nd Floor, 1st Main, Kathriguppe Main Road, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru-560085, have changed my name from Shamala. V.P to Shamala Shankar.B vide affidavit dated 13/06/2024 before Notary Gangaraju.B.N, Bengaluru.

SITUATION VACANT

TECHNICAL

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
NO. 1 RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI-600 001.
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT
VACANCY NOTICE
No.RC2/2035/2023/GA Dated: 19.06.2024
Chennai Port Authority, an autonomous body under the Government of India, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, invites applications for filling up of **3 (Three) vacancies in the post of Pilot (Class-I) (SC-2, ST-1) in Marine Department, in the scale of pay of Rs.70000 – 200000. Eligible candidates have to apply through "Online Application Portal" (OAP) of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** (http://onlinevacancyshipmin.nic.in)
For further details, visit Chennai Port Authority's Website viz., www.chennaiport.gov.in Last date for receipt of applications is 20.07.2024.
Chennai – 600 001. Secretary

PUBLIC NOTICE

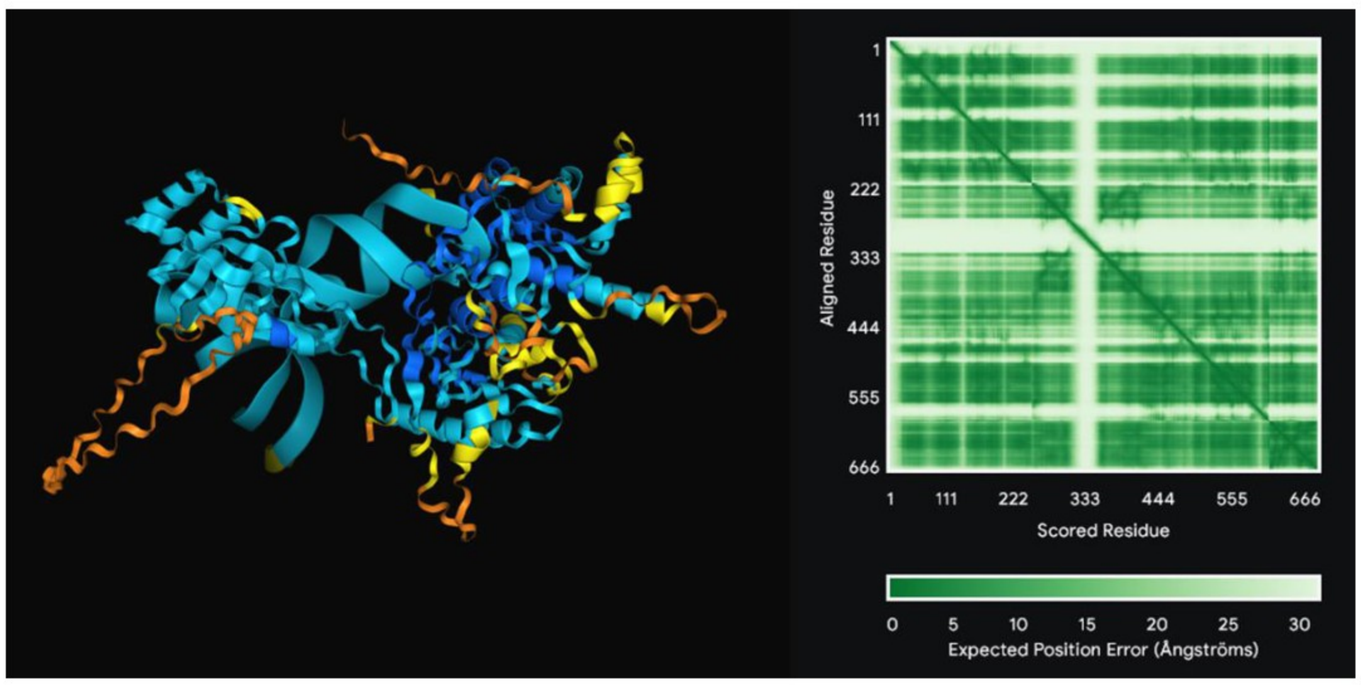
Through this Public Notice, it is hereby brought to the notice of one and all that, my clients (1) Sri B.S.Shashidhar S/o B.N.Shankaranarayana, aged about 70 years, (2) Smt.B.S.Usha W/o B.S.Shashidhar, aged about 66 years, both are residents of R/o 'Shubhashree', Opp. Zilla Panchayath Office, Kuvempu Road, Shivamogga City, have lost the Original document of Title pertaining to the Deed of Sale dated 24-03-2005 registered as Document No.JAY-1-07380/2004-05 of Book I, recorded in CD No.JAYD45 in the office of the Sub Registrar, Jayanagar, Bangalore in respect of the property bearing No. A-101, I Floor of Aster Block, Raja Prakruthi Apartments, Jayanagar 1st Block, Bangalore, measuring 1928 Sq. Feet of super built area, in a fire accident occurred on 08-01-2023 at Shivamogga City. In that regard, online report is filed to Jayanagara Police, Shivamogga vide Lost Article Report No.1098866/2024 dated 14-06-2024. The owners of the property are now intending to sell the above property and hence, this Public Notice is now issued, calling upon the objections, if any from any body, in respect of loss of original document dated 24-03-2005, bearing SR No. JAY-1-07380/2004-05. Any person having claim / in possession of the said document may represent to the under signed, in writing, within 15 days failing which it will be taken that there are no claims.
Date: 19-06-2024 (Jayanthkumar) Advocate,
Place: Bangalore Office: F-13, Durgigudi Co-Operative Society Complex, Park Extension Road, Shivamogga City.
Mobile: 9448449570

THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU POWERPLAY T20 TRIVIA QUIZ
Turn to the sports pages to participate in today's quiz
Yesterday's winners:
1. Pulkit Khurana, New Delhi
2. Jensilin Oliva, Chennai
3. Nilesh Shah, Hubli

How will AI that predicts protein structures change the life sciences?

'If the protein folding problem was set to us by God to teach us how to learn molecular interactions from first principles, we cheated,' pharmaceutical researcher Derek Lowe told *The Hindu*. 'We have figured out how they usually do it, even if we don't know why'

Rohini Subrahmanyam



The three-dimensional structure of the protein-RNA ion PDB 8AW3, as predicted by AlphaFold 3. The plot on the right shows the expected position error in the prediction. ALPHAFOLD SERVER

Proteins are one of the most important molecules of life, with almost every biological function from birth to death being regulated by them in some way. Each protein is made up of a string of smaller building blocks called amino acids, which contain all the information to transform proteins – from a single sequence to a folded, functional 3D structure.

The steps a protein takes to go from its straight form to its final form are too many to count and too hard to follow, leaving the question of how every protein folds – the famous protein-folding problem – unanswered. "If you want to understand the molecular basis of how cells work, how organisms work, how life works, you need to understand how proteins get their shape," Frank Uhlmann, a biochemist at the Francis Crick Institute in London, said.

Answers ex machina

Things changed when Google DeepMind's protein-structure prediction software AlphaFold burst onto the scene in 2020. The highly improved AlphaFold 2 was introduced in 2021. AlphaFold uses machine learning and artificial intelligence (AI) to accurately predict protein structures from an amino acid sequence, seemingly solving the protein-folding problem without learning any of the deeper physical principles that drive this biological process.

"If the protein folding problem was set to us by God to teach us how to learn molecular interactions from first principles, we cheated," Derek Lowe, author of the *Science* column 'In the pipeline' and long-time pharmaceutical researcher, told *The Hindu*. "We haven't learned a tremendous amount more about that. We have figured out how they usually do it, even if we don't know why."

"It's startling how it works as well as it does."

Now, in a *Nature* paper published in May 2024, scientists at DeepMind led by John Jumper introduced AlphaFold 3, building on its predecessors with even more transformative capabilities. AlphaFold 3 can predict protein-protein interactions as well as the structures of other molecules like DNA and RNA, along with the interactions of proteins with all these other compounds.

Democratising research

"AlphaFold 2 predicted the structure of proteins with revolutionary levels of accuracy," Josh Abramson, a research engineer at DeepMind and lead author of the new paper, told *The Hindu* in an email.

"AlphaFold 3 is even more accurate for proteins, but can also predict the structure of DNA, RNA, and all the other molecular components that make up biology. The interaction of all these biomolecules is what makes up the processes of life, so it is important to be able to predict the structure of these interactions."

Apart from being able to give us a lot more insight into biological processes, the new AlphaFold is also more usable by scientists who aren't experts in machine learning. Dr. Uhlmann, who has been using AlphaFold 3 to study how proteins and DNA interact in chromosomes, said, "You don't need to know anything about coding, now literally everybody can do it. All you need is a Google account, you can upload protein sequences in the DeepMind server, and 10 minutes later you get your results. That completely democratises structure prediction research."

From noise to signal

The original AlphaFold was trained on the thousands of sequences and protein structures present in the protein data bank, a giant protein repository where scientists submit experimentally determined protein structures. "It completely ignores all the fundamental physics and thermodynamics, it's modelling based on learning what real structures *tend* to look like, taking advantage of tendencies of protein structures that are too subtle for humans to realise," Dr. Lowe said.

Unlike its predecessors, AlphaFold 3 uses a diffusion model, which is what image-generating software also uses. The model works by first training on protein structures, adding noise to the data, and then trying to de-noise it. This way, the model becomes able to work its way back from a noisy structure to a real protein structure. This architecture also helps AlphaFold 3 handle a much larger input dataset.

> If you want to understand the molecular basis of how cells work, how organisms work, how life works, you need to understand how proteins get their shape

A reliability problem

Its accuracy at predicting protein-protein interactions is also incredibly high – but not its reliability when it comes to interactions between small molecules and proteins. Proteins use a language of 20 amino acids whereas small molecule ligands "have a much larger vocabulary", according to Dr. Lowe.

Greater variations in the dataset and the use of diffusion techniques can lead to the model coming up with answers that look plausible but aren't real. Adding more training data can help circumvent this problem, but not entirely get rid of it.

Nevertheless, AlphaFold 3 predicts protein structures and interactions better than other models right now. Academics and companies can potentially use it to find drug candidates that can bind to proteins and help cure diseases. In fact, DeepMind's spin-off company Isomorphic Labs is using AlphaFold 3 for this very purpose: drug discovery. However, this option isn't open to everyone yet.

AlphaFold 3 can predict protein-protein interactions as well as the structures of other molecules like DNA and RNA. GETTY IMAGES

A peek under the hood

Additionally, even though scientists are free to use the AlphaFold server to upload their protein sequences, many researchers are irked at not being able to access the model's full code. This means they can't play around with its nuts and bolts and modify it for specific use-cases.

An important implication of this lack of access is that it's currently impossible to use AlphaFold 3 to find structures of proteins bound to drug candidates. Researchers expressed their disappointment in an open letter signed by more than 600 to date. According to the text, the restriction "does not align with the principles of scientific progress, which rely on the ability of the community to evaluate, use, and build upon existing work." Different groups have also begun a race to crack the model's code and make open-source versions.Responding to the backlash, DeepMind scientists have also changed their initial stance of not releasing the whole code to saying they will do so in six months.

The journey begins

For now, we need to wait and watch how DeepMind decides to let scientists examine AlphaFold 3 more closely, to appreciate its full power. But until then, the model remains one of the best AI-based protein structure prediction models out there, now with the ability to predict interactions with other kinds of biological structures as well.

At the same time, both Dr. Lowe and Dr. Uhlmann wanted to be clear that even if AlphaFold 3 makes very good predictions, it shouldn't be treated as an "infallible oracle". Instead, it offers a good starting point where scientists can obtain some answers, which they can then build on with further experiments and expert analysis."It's a prediction, you can't take it for granted," Dr. Uhlmann said. "It's not solving your question, but it's a new and exciting discovery tool that helps you build and test new hypotheses."

(Rohini Subrahmanyam is a freelance journalist with a PhD in biology from the National Centre for Biological Sciences, Bengaluru.)

A woman in Guwahati, Assam, on May 25. Heat wave conditions across India make this a summer no one will forget in a hurry. AP

Indian cities are 'heat traps' that make summers worse: official

Reuters

Indian cities have become "heat traps" due to their unbalanced growth devouring water bodies and increasing greenhouse emissions, a senior government official said on June 17, as a scorching summer killed dozens in some parts of the country.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has forecast above-normal temperatures for June in the northwest and central parts of the country including Delhi, making it one of the longest heatwave spells.

The highest daily temperatures in the capital have stayed above 40 degrees Celsius since May 12 and are forecast to fall below that mark only on June 26. The IMD's heatwave criteria start with 40 degrees in the plains and 30 degrees for hills where it is generally cooler because of elevation.

Delhi, which is also facing a water shortage, recorded about 44 degrees late Monday afternoon but the IMD said it felt like 49.2 degrees.

"Climate change plays an important role," Krishna S. Vatsa, a member of the National Disaster Management Authority, told *Reuters*.

Unbalanced urban growth, which has reduced wetlands and water bodies, was another factor, Mr. Vatsa said.

"The emission of greenhouse gases has gone up. The permeable spaces have gone down considerably. The cities actually have become heat traps."

As a result, he said, nights are nearly as uncomfortable as days.

Above-normal temperatures have been forecast for June in the northwest and central parts of the country, including Delhi, making it one of the longest heatwave spells

According to a study by the Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) published last month, land surface temperatures during summers from 2001 to 2010 in cities such as Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata and Mumbai used to drop by up to 13.2 degrees C during the night from their day-time peak.

Between 2014 and 2023 they were only cooling off by up to 11.5 degrees C.

"Hot nights are as dangerous as mid-day peak temperatures," the Centre's report said. "People get little chance to recover from day-time heat if temperatures remain high overnight."

Vatsa said most Indian states were implementing heat action plans that include provisioning drinking water and better medical facilities, as well as rescheduling outdoor work and school vacations.

But Anumita Roychowdhury, CSE's executive director, said there was no clear mandate to implement long-term strategies.

Delhi's long-term plan includes increasing heat insulation of buildings, developing shelters for urban poor and slum dwellers, and investing in cooling water bodies.

Such plans need to be backed financially, said Vishwas Chitale of the Council on Energy, Environment and Water, a think-tank in New Delhi.

"Cities are struggling with their own finance and they don't have additional budgets to implement actions for heat," he added.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

A brief history of the earth

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

In the earth's first geologic aeon, the moon was created, in the process also laying the groundwork for an atmosphere rich in hydrogen, water vapour, and carbon dioxide. This period is named for a famous Greek god. Name it.

QUESTION 2

Some 720-630 million years ago, the Cryogenian period immediately followed another billion-year-long period called the _____ _____. The latter was called so because the earth's crust was quite stable in this time, evolution proceeded at a slow pace, and the climate didn't change considerably. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 3

The shortest period of the Palaeozoic era was called the Silurian. It began right after the first of the earth's five ____ _____ events, during which the diversity of marine genera plummeted drastically worldwide. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 4

In Ancient Greek, the name of this geologic epoch means "new dawn". It was given this name because life-forms that persist on the earth today began evolving at the start of this epoch. Name this epoch.

QUESTION 5

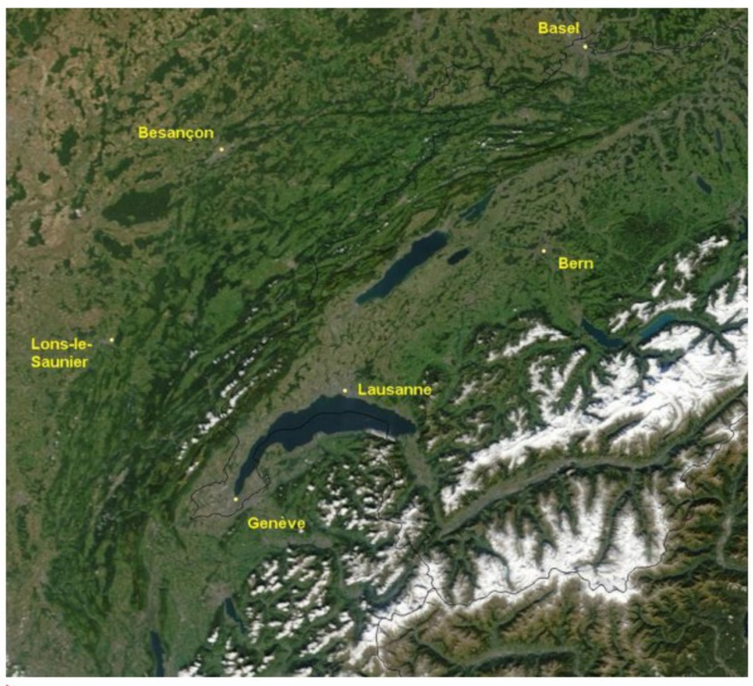
In 2018, the International Commission on Stratigraphy confirmed the name of our current geologic era. It comes from the name of a state in India, which is home to one of the country's longest caves and where scientists found stalagmites that recorded evidence of the geological transition leading to the present one. Name the state.

Answers to June 18 quiz:

1. Smallest whole number with the letter 'a' – **Ans: 101**
2. Six-digit bird whose first six multiples are its anagrams – **Ans: 142,857**
3. The first taxicab number – **Ans: 2**
4. Jung's term for numbers appearing sans causal links in cultures – **Ans: Synchronicity**
5. Numbers including 30, 42, 66, 70, 78, 102, … – **Ans: Sphenic numbers**

Visual: **Achilles**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Ameya Nagarajan | Anmol Agrawal | Praveen Srivatsan



Visual: Name the geologic period named after the mountains shown in this image. PUBLIC DOMAIN

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Minister Reddy hints at possibility of fare hike in KSRTC buses

A file photo of a KSRTC bus conductor issuing tickets to passengers.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After the increase in the prices of petrol and diesel in Karnataka, Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy hinted at the possibility of a hike in the Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) bus fares.

"Transport corporations have not submitted any proposal regarding the increase in bus fares so far. If such a proposal comes, we will review it and take an appropriate decision so that the public is not financially burdened," he said.

Speaking at a press conference on Wednesday, he said: "In 2014, the bus fares of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation, the KSRTC, the North West and the Kalyana Karnataka Transport Corporations were increased. After that there has been a substantial increase in the price of diesel, cost of spare parts, maintenance costs, and staff wages. Owing to the increase in diesel prices, the financial burden on the transport companies has increased and this burden has to be compensated for."

HSRP deadline extended

The State government has issued an order extending the deadline for installation of High Security Registration Number Plate (HSRP) on old vehicles till September 15.

All vehicles registered before April 1, 2019, should be fitted with HSRP. There are 2 crore such old vehicles in the State, out of which only 45 lakh have been fitted with HSRP so far. The Transport Department had submitted a proposal to extend the deadline for the adoption of HSRP for the remaining 1.55 crore vehicles.

Big jump in dengue cases reported across State

According to Health Department data, while Karnataka reported 2,003 cases in 2023 [from January to June 18], the cases shot up to 4,886 this year, including 1,230 in BBMP limits

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

A worker fumigating a private building to control mosquitoes in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Dengue is on the rise in the State with the total number of cases till this June 18 touching 4,886. This is 143.9% more than the number of cases reported during the corresponding period last year. No deaths have been recorded so far this year.

According to data from the State Health Department, while Karnataka reported 2,003 dengue cases in 2023 from January to June 18, the cases shot up to 4,886 this year, including 1,230 in BBMP. The State has added over half of the total tally in the last two months.

Karnataka reported a total of 9,889 dengue cases and nine deaths in 2022 and 16,566 in 2023 (from January to December).

Highest rise

The rise in cases compared to last year has been the highest in Chikkamagaluru and Uttara Kannada followed by Kalaburagi and Haveri.

In terms of cases, the number of cases shot up from 13 (in the January to June 18 period) in 2023 to 346 this year in Chikkamagaluru.

Likewise, during this period in Uttara Kannada, cases shot up from three in 2023 to 80 this year, and from seven in 2023 to 153 this year in Kalaburagi. Compared to 732 cases recorded during the corresponding period in 2023, the BBMP has recorded a 68% rise this year.

With nearly 25% of the State's total cases this year being reported in Bengaluru, the city continued to record the most positive cases. Bengaluru is followed by Mysuru at 277 cases and Chikkamagaluru at 346 cases this year.

Doctors in Bengaluru are seeing many patients reporting with a transient drop in platelet count. Doctors at the State-run Victoria Hospital that is affiliated to Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) said they are seeing at least 10 dengue cases every day. "However, not many need admissions. With proper monitoring, the platelet count is picking up," a senior doctor said.

Telemedicine specialist Haleema Yezdani said so far she has been seeing mild to moderate dengue cases.

"Fever is mild in most cases and is usually taking five to six days to subside. But some patients are also reporting a spike in fever and drop in platelet count after the fever subsides. A majority are being managed without the need for hospital admission. Most of the cases that I am seeing are from Electronics City, Whitefield, and Marathahalli," she said.

Mohammed Sharief, State Programme Officer, National Vector-Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP), said testing of suspected dengue cases has increased by 41% compared to the corresponding period during 2023.

"A high-power intersectoral committee meeting, headed by Additional Chief Secretary and Development Commissioner, was convened on June 7 to seek the cooperation of allied departments. Joint circulars are being sent from Health, RDRP, Urban Development, Education, Transport, and Industries Commerce regarding their role in dengue prevention," the official added.

BIAL plans to build elevated western cross-field taxiway

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL), which operates the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA), plans to construct an elevated western cross-field taxiway. The western cross-field taxiway is expected to enhance operational efficiency and safety for aircraft taxiing between the two terminals (Terminal 1 and Terminal 2) and two runways (north and south) of the airport.

The operator has issued an Expression of interest (EoI) for construction of the western cross-field taxiway.

According to the EoI: "The airport operates two runways 09L/27R (north runway) and 09R/27L (south runway). To enhance operational efficiency and safety for aircraft taxiing between terminals and runways, Western Crossfield Taxiway is required as envisaged in the master plan. Western Crossfield Taxiway is being planned for operationalisation in year 2026."

A BIAL spokesperson said, "The new Western Crossfield Taxiway project at KIA will increase airside capacity by connecting the South and North runways on the west side. This will improve airfield circulation and provide better connectivity between the two runways, resulting in shorter taxi times for certain aircraft operations. It will allow for smoother flow of aircraft movement, enhancing safety and efficiency. This will also have sustainability benefits due to lowered fuel usage."

According to the EoI, the scope of work includes design and construction of structural infrastructure for the project.

APPOINTMENT

KANNUR International Airport Ltd.
KANNUR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT LIMITED
APPOINTMENTS
Applications are invited for the following posts:
SUPERVISOR - ARFF - 2 Nos
FIRE & RESCUE OPERATOR (GRADE -1) - 5 Nos
FIRE & RESCUE OPERATOR (FRO) - 5 Nos
Details are available on the website
www.kannurairport.aero/careers
Apply online through the website.
Last date for submitting online applications is 10-07-2024 (17.00 hrs.)
Sd/-
Managing Director

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JUN. 20	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:48
RISE 17:22	SET 04:02
FRIDAY, JUN. 21	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:48
RISE 18:21	SET 04:53
SATURDAY, JUN. 22	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:48
RISE 19:22	SET 05:51

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	31	21
Bengaluru	30	22

Bengaluru Today
30°C Morning will be pleasant Day will be slight warm and humid. Spell of light rain and thundershower is likely to occur. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C The weather will be slight warm and humid Night will be pleasant Spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds may occur.

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THE HINDU
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'India's development strategy should be multi-dimensional'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

"India's strategy should be multi-dimensional. Growth may be stimulated by raising investment rate, emphasising manufacturing, services and exports, absorbing new technologies, and promoting a mix of employment friendly sectors. But, job creation is going to be the toughest challenge ahead," said C. Rangarajan, former Governor of Reserve Bank of India.

In his convocation address at the first annual convocation of the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar School of Economics University, Bengaluru, on Wednesday, he said in light of recent developments, there needs to be a clear roadmap for India's growth. "The expectations of the people are very clear; we want to become a developed country by 2047 - that is when India completes 100 years after independence," he said.

"Analysts are considering redesigning industrial policy in the light of ongoing global developments. Post World War II, many of the east Asian countries adopted an export-led growth strategy and made rapid progress. Subsequently, China adopted a similar policy. China's share in world exports was 0.6% in 1970. By 2022, equity will be a distant dream. On the other hand, without equity, growth cannot be sustained. Equity also requires an emphasis on health and education as part of public expenditure in terms both of quantum and quality," he explained.

"International financial organisations currently classify countries with per capita income of $13,845 and above as developed countries. In 2047, this level would be higher and as of now, our per capita income is $2,500. This shows the distance we have to travel," he said, adding that based on some assumptions about the future exchange rate of the rupee and domestic inflation, there needs to be an average annual real rate of growth of 6 to 7% to achieve this level of per capita income.

Thaawarchand Gehlot, Governor, underscored the importance of the role of economists in shaping the nation's future.

A total of 180 students were conferred degrees, including four gold medals and 12 rank certificates. M.C. Sudhakar, Minister for Higher Education, N.R. Bhanumurthy, vice-chancellor, and others were present.

232 species observed in Tarahunise lake following rejuvenation, says report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A biodiversity survey report of the Tarahunise lake in north Bengaluru has revealed the presence of 232 species in the lake, following its rejuvenation a few years ago.

The lake was dug around 1964. However, for the past three decades, it was largely dry barring a few pools of water. It was used primarily as a grazing ground by locals.

A few years ago, treated water was pumped into the lake from the Hebbal-Nagwara STP, and flexible workspace provider WeWork India began restoration work in 2022. After adopting the lake, it carried out bund stabilisation, created a biodiversity park, and floating wetlands, besides installing fences, litter bins, and community bins.

According to the report, field surveys were systematically carried out bi-weekly, from October, 2023, to December, 2023, to assess the biodiversity surrounding a lake ecosystem.

Today the lake is 34.15 acres and the water is spread across 32.32 acres. The volume of water when the lake is full is about 196 million litres.

"The revelation of 3,272 organisms underscores the richness defining this environment, while the identification of 232 species emphasises the diversity inherent in this ecologically vibrant region," the report stated.

The report further added: "Breaking down the numbers further, the avian population is characterised by 14 orders and 47 families. Amphibians exhibit one order and two families; reptiles showcase one order and five families; mammals present two orders and four families; spiders manifest one order and six families, butterflies demonstrate one order and five families, and dragonflies and damselflies exhibit one order and four families. The trees in this ecosystem are categorised into 11 orders and 11 families."

Migratory birds from other countries have also returned to the lake following the restoration.

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The peak power demand in Delhi due to the heatwave

8,656 in megawatts. Massive consumption of electricity, amid a punishing heat wave sustaining over weeks, pushed the peak power demand of Delhi to an all-time high on Wednesday afternoon. PTI

The amount by which the government raised paddy MSP

117 in ₹. The government raised the minimum support price (MSP) for paddy by 5.35% to ₹2,300 per quintal for the 2024-25 kharif season. The hike in paddy MSP comes despite the government sitting on surplus rice stocks. PTI

Number of deaths caused by air pollution in 2021 globally

8.1 in million. India and China recorded 2.1 million and 2.3 million fatalities, respectively, according to a report by the Health Effects Institute. The report said that air pollution claimed the lives of 1.69 lakh children in India under the age of five in 2021. PTI

The worth of assets monetised by the government in FY24

1.56 in lakh crore. The government monetised assets under the National Monetisation Pipeline. Under the NMP, the aggregate monetisation potential of brownfield infrastructure assets is said to be ₹6 lakh crore from FY22-25. PTI

Amount approved by ADB to strengthen Indian health system

170 in $ million. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a loan to the government to improve the health system's preparedness and capacity to respond to future pandemics. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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On the Hindu Kush Himalayas snow update

What does the report by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development highlight? How important is snow persistence? How much of a role does climate change play in river basins receiving low levels of snowmelt this year?

EXPLAINER

Priyali Prakash

The story so far:

The Ganga river basin – India's largest – reached a record low snow persistence in 2024, the Hindu Kush Himalaya snow update of the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) has reported. The Brahmaputra and the Indus basins have suffered similarly, threatening water supply to millions of people. "Tragically this is yet another postcard from the frontlines of a climate crisis that is accelerating even beyond scientists' projections and causing huge challenges in one of the most populated regions of the world," Miriam Jackson, Cryosphere Lead at ICIMOD and a contributor to reports of the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, told *The Hindu*.

What is snow persistence?

Snow persistence is the fraction of time snow is on the ground. When this snow melts, it provides water to people and ecosystems. In the river basins of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH), snowmelt is the biggest source of water in the streams. Overall, it contributes 23% of the runoff to the region's 12 major river basins every year. The HKH mountains extend around 3,500 km over eight countries – Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Nepal, Myanmar, and Pakistan. These mountains are also called the "water towers of Asia" because they are the origins of 10 crucial river systems on the continent – Amu Darya, Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra, Irrawaddy, Salween, Mekong, Yangtse, Yellow river, and Tarim. These river basins provide water to almost one-fourth of the world's population and are a significant freshwater source for 240 million people in the HKH region.

What does the report say?

The authors of the 2024 HKH snow update analysed data from 2003 to 2024 and found significant fluctuations in snow persistence between November and April every year, when snow accumulates above ground. Based on this, they made grim predictions of lasting impact on the people in the region as well as those downstream of the river basins.

In India, snow persistence in the Ganga, the Brahmaputra, and the Indus river basins dropped significantly in 2024. The Ganga river basin noted its lowest snow persistence in 22 years, 17% below the long-term historical average (also known as 'normal'). The previous holder of this dubious distinction was 2018, when it was 15.2% below normal. In 2015, on the other hand, snow persistence was 25.6% above normal.

Similarly, snow persistence in the Brahmaputra basin was 14.6% below normal in 2024. It was worse in 2021, when the average persistence was 15.5% below normal. In the Indus river basin, snow persistence fell 23.3% below normal this year although this was offset by excesses in parts of the lower altitudes.

Outside India, the basin of the Amu Darya river – which flows through Central Asia – recorded its lowest snow persistence in 2024: 28.2% below normal. The figure for the Helmand river, an important source of drinking water for Iran and Afghanistan, was almost 32% below normal in 2024, beating a record set in 2018. Persistence in the part where the Mekong river originates in the Himalaya was only slightly below normal this time. (This river's delta is Vietnam's "rice bowl".)

What explains the lower snow persistence in 2024?

The primary reason for the lower persistence in 2024 was weak western disturbances, ICIMOD remote sensing specialist and author of the report Sher Muhammad told *The Hindu*.

"Due to changing climate and global warming, this pattern is becoming increasingly unstable. Although the exact mechanisms are not fully understood, global warming is thought to exacerbate prolonged and intense La Niña-El Niño conditions. These phases of a recurring climate pattern across the tropical Pacific Ocean significantly influence global weather patterns, including western disturbances," he added.

Western disturbances are low-pressure systems that originate over the Mediterranean Sea, the Caspian, and the Black Seas and bring rain and snow to the HKH region in winter. "The region where these storms originate experienced persistently high sea-surface temperatures," Mr. Muhammad explained. "This disruption weakened and delayed the arrival of the western disturbance, resulting in reduced winter precipitation and snowfall in the HKH region. The pattern of high temperatures and altered weather systems explains both the record low snow persistence in 2024 and similar historical records."

"We have warned for years that the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit that governments signed up to in the Paris Agreement is not ambitious enough to protect the snow and ice, people and nature of the Hindu Kush Himalayas because the target is a global average, and the real temperature increase will be far higher here," Ms. Jackson added.

What explains higher snow persistence?

The persistence of snow in China's Yellow River basin exceeded the normal value by 20.2% in 2024. "The Yellow river basin is an area where the East Asian winter monsoon brings cold, dry air from Siberia and Mongolia," Mr. Muhammad said. "When this cold air mass interacts with moist air from other regions, particularly the Pacific Ocean, it can result in snowfall over the higher altitudes of the upper Yellow River basin."

"When the cold air from the east Asian winter monsoon systems interacts with moist air masses from the Pacific Ocean, it can result in snowfall at higher elevations in the eastern Himalaya," Mr. Muhammad added.

What about India?

Snow persisting on the ground is important for the Ganga river basin because its melt contributes to 10.3% of the latter's water, versus 3.1% from glacier melts. In the Brahmaputra and the Indus basins as well, snowmelt brings 13.2% and around 40% of the water, respectively, versus 1.8% and 5% from glaciers.

"Lower snow in 2024 may affect water availability, particularly and most importantly in the Indus basin, if there is less rainfall in the early season," Mr. Muhammad said.

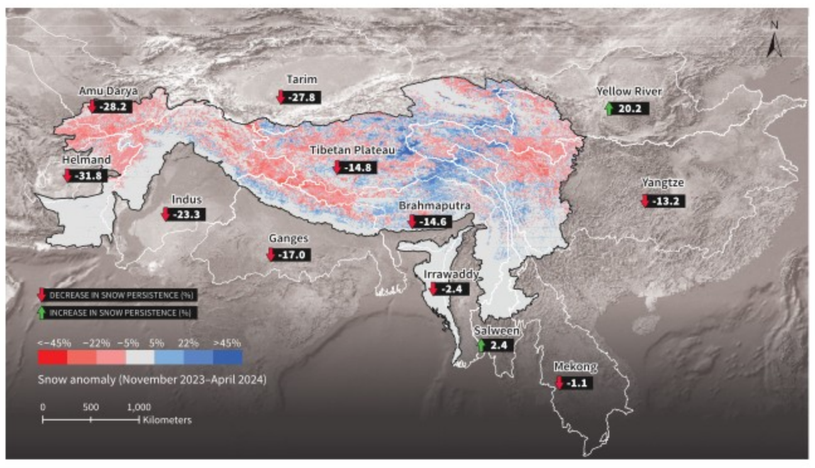
In the long term, experts say, reforestation with native tree species can help the ground retain more snow. Better weather forecasting and early warning systems can also help local communities prepare for impending water stress. "Improving water infrastructure and developing policies for protecting areas receiving snowfall are important for long-term change," according to Mr. Muhammad. "Communities' involvement in local, national level decision-making and promoting regional cooperation are vital for comprehensive solutions for the sustainability of snow."

Ms. Jackson also stressed on the need to reduce emissions, which would mitigate increasing sea-surface and ground temperatures, both of which lower the persistence of snow. "The key work for all of us concerned about a liveable future on the earth is to build the political will for our government representatives and business leaders to cut the cord on dirty fossil energy consumption and production, especially among G-20 countries, which account for 81% of all emissions," she said.

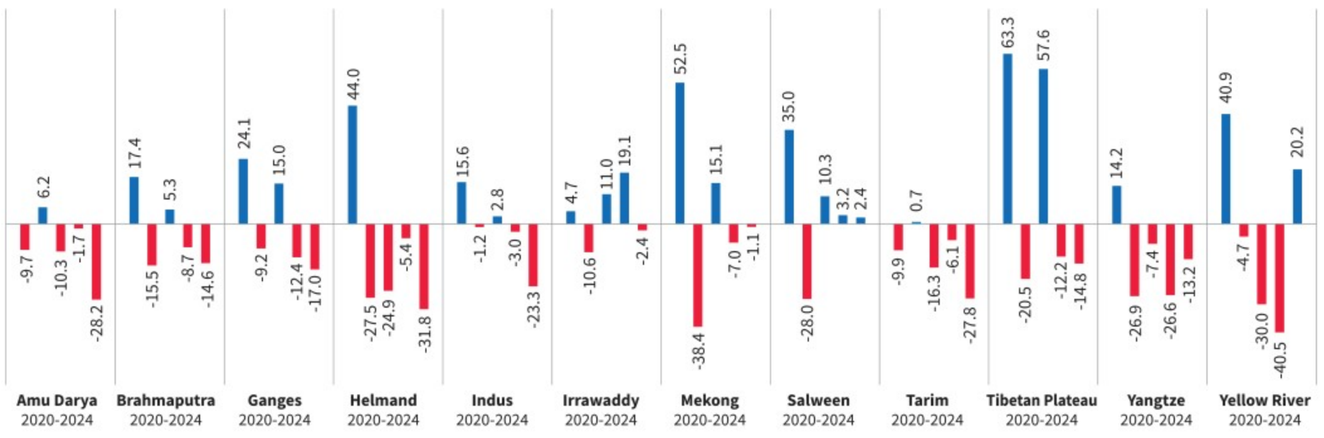
Where does the snow go?

Snow persistence is the fraction of time snow is on the ground. When this snow melts, it provides water to people and ecosystems. In the river basins of the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH), snowmelt is the biggest source of water in the streams

iStockphoto



Snow persistence changes between 2020 and 2024 in major river basins of the HKH (in %)



Source: ICIMOD 2024 HKH snow update

THE GIST

- The Ganga river basin — India's largest — reached a record low snow persistence in 2024. The Brahmaputra and the Indus basins have suffered similarly, threatening water supply to millions of people.
- The authors of the 2024 HKH snow update analysed data from 2003 to 2024 and found significant fluctuations in snow persistence between November and April every year, when snow accumulates above ground.
- In the long term, experts say, reforestation with native tree species can help the ground retain more snow. Better weather forecasting and early warning systems can also help local communities prepare for impending water stress.

Majestic: The Himalayan mountain range at Munsiyari, Uttarakhand. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Will contest Channapatna bypoll if party wishes: DKS

Sources in the Congress say the party is likely to field his brother D.K. Suresh, who lost the Lok Sabha election in Bengaluru Rural constituency, as its candidate

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

After a setback in the Lok Sabha elections, specifically in the Bengaluru Rural constituency, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who also heads the State Congress unit, on Wednesday embarked on a temple run in the Channapatna Assembly constituency, which will soon go for byelection as the seat has been vacated by Union Minister for Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy.

Before commencing the temple run, in a surprise statement, the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) president said that he "may be left with no other choice but to contest from Channapatna in the byelection if the party and people wanted".

The Deputy Chief Minister said, "Channapatna is in my heart. It was part of the erstwhile Sathanur Assembly constituency which I represented. My political career started from there. The people of Channapatna have been with me in tough times and I have a debt to repay."

"I am visiting the temples of the constituency and discussing with the local leaders and voters, and will take a decision on contesting later," he said.

Offering prayers: Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar at a temple in the Channapatna Assembly constituency on Wednesday.

Gauging the mood

Mr. Shivakumar spent almost a day in the constituency, visited more than a dozen temples and offered prayers. A party functionary said Mr. Shivakumar is gauging the pulse of voters and local leaders of the constituency in case the party fields his brother D.K. Suresh, who lost against BJP's C.N. Manjunath, cardiologist, in Bengaluru Rural parliamentary seat. However, the KPCC chief said, "The decision on Mr. Suresh contesting from Channapatna has not been finalised."

Even though the Election Commission of India has not announced the calendar of events for the byelection, Mr. Shivakumar began his constituency tour, which is largely seen as the beginning of the election campaign in an attempt to wrest the Channapatna seat held by the Janata Dal (Secular).

Mr. Shivakumar, who is keen to emerge as a Vokkaliga leader in the Old Mysore region and nursing the ambition of occupying the Chief Minister's post, chaired a key meeting with community leaders last week amid concerns that the community votes moved towards the BJP-JD(S) alliance in the parliamentary elections.

The Deputy Chief Minister also seems to be keen on settling political scores for the defeat of his brother in the Lok Sabha election by ensuring victory of the party candidate in the byelection. Traditionally, the Congress and JD(S) are political rivals in this region.

The BJP-JD(S) alliance has worked in the parliamentary elections, especially in the Old Mysore region, and the two parties won 19 seats in the State. Both the Congress and the BJP-JD(S) alliance have not yet officially announced their candidates for Channapatna.

JD(S) or BJP?

It would be interesting to see whether the BJP would field C.P. Yogeshwar, who lost against Mr. Kumaraswamy in the 2023 election or give the seat to the JD(S). There is speculation that Mr. Kumaraswamy's son, Nikhil Kumaraswamy, may be pitched as the candidate. Mr. Nikhil lost the 2023 Assembly election from the neighbouring Ramanagara constituency.

Many tight contests

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Channapatna Assembly constituency, which is known for its wooden toys and sericulture, has seen tight contests in the past. Actor-turned-politician C.P. Yogeshwar has been elected five times from the segment since 1999, as an Independent and also as Congress, BJP, and Samajwadi Party candidate.

2023 elections

In a closely fought contest between two Vokkaliga leaders, the former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy defeated the former Minister Mr. Yogeshwar of the BJP in the 2023 elections by a margin of about 15,000 votes. In the 18 Assembly elections held in the constituency since 1951, the Congress and the Janata Party/JD(S) have won five times each.

Casteism, superstitious attitude on the rise among educated people: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Expressing concern about an increase in casteist and superstitious attitudes among educated people, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has called upon students to shun them.

On Wednesday, the Chief Minister honoured meritorious students who have done well in SSLC and PU exams at a programme jointly organised by the Social Welfare Department and Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions' Associations in Bengaluru, along with Legislative Council Chairperson Basavaraj Horatti and Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa.

Addressing the gathering, he said, "Several doctors are themselves yet to shun blind beliefs. Educated people continue to believe in fate and the *karma* philosophy."

Lauding them: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah felicitating students who did well in SSLC and PU exams, in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

He expressed concern that though social reformers and spiritual leaders such as Buddha and Basavanna tried to wipe away the caste system several centuries ago, casteism is increasing of late, especially among educated people. Society is witnessing inequality mainly due to the caste system, he said, while stressing on the need to ensure equality.

Pointing out that elders teach caste and religion-based discrimination to children, he stressed the need for teachers and parents to first come out of ignorance and superstition. "Only then will students evolve based on scientific temper and shape a bright future for themselves," he said.

Referring to poet laureate Kuvempu's famous lines that "Every child is born as *vishwa manava* (universal man). But, as he/she grows, we turn him/her into *alpa manava* (petty man)", the Chief Minister said teachers and parents have the responsibility of preventing children from becoming petty men.

Recalling that Basavanna had initiated inter-caste marriages as early as in the 12th century between Dalits and Brahmins, he said the oppressed communities should get social and financial empowerment if the caste system has to become weak. This had been emphasised by B.R. Ambedkar, he pointed out. He said because of the Constitution, children of even oppressed communities can get education.

Mr. Siddaramaiah recalled that he had started Morarji Residential Schools in rural areas while presenting his first State Budget on being inspired by the Dalit Sangharsha Samiti's campaign with the theme – 'We need residential school and not arrack'. Karnataka has 946 residential schools, including 833 under the Social Welfare Department. Students of these government residential schools had registered 96% pass in SSLC and PU exams.

Congress forms panels to oversee byelections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee has formed three committees to oversee the byelections in the three Legislative Assembly constituencies of Channapatna, Shiggaon, and Sandur. The panels have been formed to identify "winnable" candidates and ensure their victory. These seats were vacated by former Chief Ministers H.D. Kumaraswamy (JD-S) and Basavaraj Bommai (BJP), and E. Tukaram (Congress) following their election to the Lok Sabha.

The party's central leader Abhishek Datta is the AICC in-charge secretary while G.C. Chandrashekhar, MP, is the working president of the overseeing committee for the Channapatna constituency. Minister for Agriculture N. Cheluvarayaswamy is heading the observers' committee.

Mayura Jayakuamar is the AICC in-charge secretary for the Shiggaon constituency while Vinay Kulkarni, MLA, is the working president of the committee. The observers' committee is headed by Minister Eshwar B. Khandre.

Mayura Jayakuamar is the AICC in-charge secretary for the Sandur constituency while KPCC working president Vasanth Kumar is the working president of the committee. The observers' committee is headed by Minister B.Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan.

Byelection will also be held to a Legislative Council seat vacated by Kota Srinivas Poojary (BJP), who has been elected to the Lok Sabha. Rozy John and Manjunath Bhandary, MLC, are AICC in-charge secretary and working president, respectively, of the panel. The observers' committee is headed by Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao.

HDK requests Vaishnaw to take up rail line sanctioned during Deve Gowda's term

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Union Minister for Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy has requested Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw to take up the Bengaluru-Satyamangala-Chamarajanagar railway line passing through the Kanakapura-Malavalli route which was sanctioned when his father, H.D. Deve Gowda, was the Prime Minister.

Mr. Kumaraswamy met Mr. Vaishnaw in New Delhi on Wednesday. If the Centre takes up the railway line as per the request of Mr. Kumaraswamy, then it is expected to provide a boost to the efforts of the BJP-JD(S) combine in Karnataka to get a political footing in the political bastion of Congress leader D.K. Shivakumar, who hails from Kanakapura.

CM: State aims for 15% industrial growth

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday said the Karnataka government aimed to achieve an industrial growth rate of 15-16% annually to reach a $1 trillion GDP by 2032.

Addressing the gathering at the curtain-raiser for the Global Investor Meet - 'Invest Karnataka 2025', scheduled for February next year, he said that over the last decade, the State had posted a growth rate of 9.3%.

"The government's vision extends beyond urban centres, intending to spread industries to rural regions, particularly Kalyana Karnataka, through focused cluster development initiatives," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

"The government is committed to ensuring balanced regional development. We are nurturing specialised industries in different parts of the State, leveraging local expertise and resources. We have identified clusters to develop priority sectors such as electronics, automotive and electric vehicles, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and more," the Chief Minister said.

Through the Global Investor Meet (GIM) 2025, Karnataka seeks to showcase its technological prowess and manufacturing excellence.

At the event, Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil launched 'ventuRISE 2025' and announced that the Karnataka Industrial Policy 2025-2030 was being drafted to include best-in-class incentives to ensure competitiveness in attracting investors.

There will be a series of global roadshows to introduce Karnataka's manufacturing ecosystem to international companies and visits to foreign countries to invite industry leaders for GIM. These visits include a trip to Japan from June 24 to 28 followed by a visit to South Korea from July 1 to 5, Mr. Patil said.

Semiconductor industry: State will provide its share if Centre extends 50% subsidy, says Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Large and Medium Industries Minister M.B. Patil on Wednesday said that the Karnataka government was ready to provide its share of a 20% subsidy if the Central government extends a 50% subsidy to promote the semiconductor industry in the State.

Mr. Patil's statement came in response to Union Minister for Heavy Industries H.D. Kumaraswamy's comments on Tuesday, where he questioned whether the State government was prepared to award a 20% subsidy to the U.S.-based Micron Technology, similar to the Gujarat government's approach.

In a post on X, Mr. Patil affirmed that if the Central government initially provides a 50% subsidy, the State would extend a 20% subsidy. "I have confidence that Kumaraswamy will not backtrack on this," he added.

Mr. Patil emphasised that the Central government should adopt a uniform policy for all States and expressed hope that Mr. Kumaraswamy would recognise this. "We are questioning the Central government favouring Gujarat, which is the home State of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Mr. Patil said.

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
TAMILNADU POWER GENERATION CORPORATION LIMITED

E-tender through e-procurement platform at **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** as per the instructions in the tender specification **Coal (SHIP) – 159 Dated 14.06.2024** for time chartering of One Self-Trimming Panamax / Kamsarmax gearless vessel for coastal movement of coal by TNPGCL:

Sl No	Specification No.	Description of Work / Materials	Due date & time for submission of e-tender
1	Coal (SHIP) - 159 Dated 14.06.2024	TIME CHARTERING OF ONE SELF-TRIMMING PANAMAX / KAMSARMAX GEARLESS BULK CARRIER VESSEL WITH THE LAYDAYS FROM 15th to 30th JULY 2024 FOR A PERIOD OF 6 MONTHS + 2 MONTHS CHOPTION +/- 15 DAYS CHOPTION	**28.06.2024 Upto 14:30 Hours.**

Submission of E-Tender: THROUGH THIS HYPERLINK **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
Date & Time of commencement of download of Tender Specification : **17:00 Hrs. on 20.06.2024**
Date & Time of closing of download of Tender Specification : **14:30 Hrs on 28.06.2024**
Soft copy of Tender Specification:
The tender specification can be downloaded from TANGEDCO website **www.tangedco.gov.in,** from Tamil Nadu Government Web site i.e. **www.tenders.tn.gov.in** and from National Informatics Center website **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app** free of cost.
Tender will be opened: Through the NIC portal **https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/2013/Tender/2024 **CHIEF ENGINEER / MECH / COAL, TNPGCL / CHENNAI-2**

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD
3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009.

Tender Notification
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Karnataka Housing Board invite tender from the eligible Pre qualified contractors in Karnataka Housing Board through Karnataka public procurement portal for below mentioned work.

Last date for submission of bid: 18.07.2024 up to 4.00 PM

Sl.No.	Name of the work
1	Constructions of office building for food & civil supply, consumer affaris and leagal metrology department (Aahara Soudha) at Ali askar Road, Bengaluru. Tender Reference Number KHB/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT 242 & IFT No.14/2024-25 Date: 18.06.2024. **Amount put to tender: Rs.35,75,30,115/-.**

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru. Telephone No: 080-22273511/080-22100077, Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
DIPR/CP/445/AKAR/2024-25 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru**

BELAGAVI URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Belagavi. Fax/Phone No: 0831-2470342, 2470257 E-mail: belagavibuda@gmail.com

No: BUDA/PWD/E-TENDER/2024-25/693 **Date: 18-06-2024**

TENDER NOTIFICATION (e-Procurement Portal)

Commissioner, Belagavi Urban Development Authority (BUDA), Belagavi invites tenders from eligible Agencies for the works taken under Belagavi Urban Development Authority Grants works in Standard Tender Document through e-Procurement - 02 Portal for further details visit online Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The details of the time table of tenders are as follows.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Indent No.	Estimated Amount of Work (Rs. in Lakhs)	EMD Amount (in Rs.)	Work Execution Period
1	Improvements to roads at mannat colony Belagavi North Constituency	INDENT 23	97.60	1,95,200/-	6 Months
2	Improvements to roads at parvati colony, shivteerth colony Belagavi North Constituency	INDENT 24	99.85	1,99,700/-	6 Months
3	Improvements to roads at Sai colony RS No 1078 Belagavi North Constituency	INDENT 25	90.50	1,81,000/-	6 Months
4	Improvements to roads at shivteerth nagar Belagavi North Constituency	INDENT 26	98.80	1,97,600/-	6 Months

Tender Form Fee as per e-Procurement Portal:
1) Last Date for Submission of Tender Queries: **12-07-2024 upto 4.30 PM. 2)** Last Date for Submission of Tender: **20-07-2024 upto 4.30 PM. 3)** Date of Opening of Technical Bid on **22-07-2024 at 5.00 PM. 4)** Date of Opening of Financial Bid will be intimated in e-Procruement Portal. **5)** Below mentioned Officers of Authority have all the rights to Accept or Reject the Tender without giving any reason. **6)** GST Amount will be paid to the Tendered Amount Seperately.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Belagavi Urban Development Auhority
Belagavi

Sd/-
Commissioner
Belagavi Urban Development Auhority
Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/129/2024-25

INNOVATE KARNATAKA **K-tech**

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EoI)

No.: ITBTST/2024-25/PREQUAL_TENDER_NUMBER_4

Karnataka Innovation and Technology Society, Department of Electronics, IT, Bt and S&T intends to empanel credible startups through this call for EoI, and encourage procurement of technology products/solutions of startups, by State Government Departments/State Public Sector Units.

The interested startups are required to download the electronic copy of the Call for EoI and upload the EoI (in PDF format) on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** through the bidder's Digital Signature Certificate (DSC).

The details of documents required for submission are available in the Call for EoI document. Any notices/information related to this Call for EoI in the future shall be available on **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only.

The deadline for submission from 20.06.2024 to 05.08.2024 (45 days) up to 05.00 PM. Refer to the call for EoI document for eligibility criteria and conditions.

Sd/-
Managing Director
KITS

KARNATAKA INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY (KITS)
Department of Electronics, IT, BT and S&T, Government of Karnataka
BMTC Central Offices Building, TTMC 'B' Block, 4th Floor, Shanthinagar, KH Road, Bangalore-560027. India
Phone : 080-2223-1006 / 8, E-mail : pma.startupkar@gmail.com
DIPR/CP/444/AKAR/2024-25

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Mr. Nissar Ahmad Bhat (59),
Senior Special News Photographer, The Hindu, Srinagar
passed away on 19-06-2024.
Address:
Khalid Bin Waleed Colony, Natipora, Srinagar-190015.
Mobile: 7006460075

DEATH

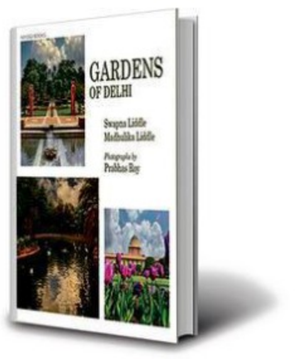
Prof. C.V. CHANDRASEKHAR
22 MAY 1935 - 19 JUNE 2024

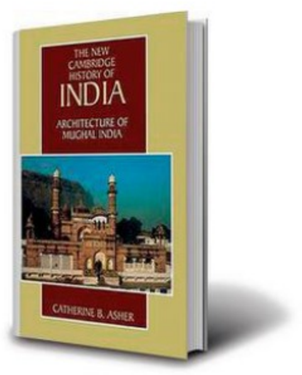
As students of the **legendary Padma Bhushan Prof. C.V. Chandrasekhar**, we bid a heartfelt farewell to our dear teacher. His passing leaves an immense void in our lives and in the **world of classical dance and music.**

Sir's contribution as a loving teacher will forever be cherished. He has left an indelible mark on each one of us and we are immensely grateful for his teachings. Sir, you are leaving behind a legacy which will continue to keep your spirit alive and inspire art and artistes world over.

Aatma Shanti
Students of Prof. C.V. Chandrasekhar

BIBLIOGRAPHY





Serene atmosphere: A mango tree in Lodhi gardens, in New Delhi in 2019. KRISHNAN V.V.

The landscape of Delhi is richly textured because of its gardens and their stories

Writers have chronicled how a land of oppressive heat and desert-like climate boasts many beautiful public gardens. This is because rulers who swept through Delhi, the Tughlaqs, Lodis, Mughals, British, all had a hand in transforming the region into a green vista

Ziya Us Salam

Each of the Mughals, from Babur to Aurangzeb, had a quality uniquely his own. Babur, the founder, was a lover of nature, and as Ebba Koch writes in *The Planetary King*, "a creator of gardens". He is credited with having introduced in Hindustan the Timurid form of 'char bagh', the first such garden having come up in Agra, though the masses remember the city for the Taj Mahal with its manicured gardens and a majestic tomb. The Mughals often camped in tents in gardens on their travels throughout their empire. These gardens had flowers and fruit trees, fountains and pools.

Akbar, of course, was the millennial hero, and Jahangir had abiding interest in the topography and landscape of the empire. Then there was Humayun, the tragic king who is best remembered through the splendid tomb built by his senior wife Haji Begum, more than a decade after he breathed his last. Humayun's last resting place was to define Delhi, a city where many a mosque stands in the middle of a garden, and many a tomb is surrounded by gardens. And each garden is separated from the other by a waterway. Haji Begum chose the site with care; the tomb was located opposite the dargah of the great sufi, Nizamuddin, and not far from Din Panah, the Abode of Faith, a city Humayun founded on the banks of the Yamuna.

Humayun's tomb

As Catherine Asher writes in *Architecture of Mughal India*, the tomb probably had a hand of Akbar in it. In a concession to his Timurid roots, Akbar hired architects from Bukhara. The tomb was built by the Begum in 'char bagh' pattern, that is, four gardens all around the tomb with each garden being segregated with a neat waterway. Though many trace the design to the Sassanian era, most historians agree that it was associated with the Islamic notions of gardens in paradise wherein rivers are said to flow.

Interestingly, red sandstone and white marble were used for the tomb with the white colour being associated with Brahmins by many, and with Sufis by others. The colour red is associated with the warriors or Kshatriyas. Whether it was a concession to local sensitivity or a smart move to Indianise the dynasty, nobody will ever know.

Humayun is not as well remembered in history, but his tomb laid the template for tombs and gardens in Delhi, giving the city a unique appearance. Many years later, Humayun's great-grandson Shahjahan built the lofty Jama Masjid in the city. Till three decades ago, the mosque had beautiful gardens around it, with one waterway of fountains, big and small, leading towards the eastern gate of the place of worship.

However, there is more to Delhi's gardens, historic or otherwise, than their association with the Mughals. In their recent book, *Gardens of Delhi*, Swapna Liddle and Madhulika Liddle, recount, "The oldest garden of which some remains can still be found in Delhi, dates from the 14th century, when Delhi was ruled by the Tughlaq dynasty. Though the original horticulture of the garden has disappeared without a trace, we are lucky to have some physical remains of a terraced garden – probably the only such Tughlaq era garden in existence. It lies inside a DDA park called Vasant Udyan."

Delhi's durable bond with gardens continued after the Tughlaqs. It was indeed there before the Tughlaqs too. For instance, as the Liddles point out, there was Bagh-e-Jadd, a 13th century garden of bounty where the Sultan used to meet foreign emissaries. "What remains of the garden itself now goes by the name of Lodi Garden, which is next to Jor Bagh." Back in the 13th century, this garden too would have had a steady stream flowing through it. Then in the 15th century came the Lodis, and the domes of Sheesh Gumbad and Bada Gumbad. The tombs and the gumbads were once again located in gardens. The association of canals and rivers in gardens with Nahar-e-Bahisht or the River of Paradise was as remarkable as it was intriguing. The Lodi Gardens are the preferred venue for many a Delhiite. Some use them for a morning walk, others for an afternoon meet, still others for moments of love and leisure after a hard day's work. "At 90 acres and with a long history as a green space, Lodi Gardens is one of the best gardens in Delhi to see a wide variety of plant and tree species. These include everything from exotics like silver oak, red bottle brush, eucalyptus, southern magnolia to indigenous trees like sita ashok, neem, mango and jamun," reveal the Liddles in the book which has some amazing photographs by Prabhas Roy.

Heritage trees

Of course, the garden has a mango tree which is counted among Delhi's 16 heritage trees. Then near Mohammed Shah Syed's tomb is Buddha's coconut, the tallest of its kind. In the vicinity is a roheda tree too; the tree is said to have healing powers!

Like the kings and sultans, each garden of Delhi has a story to tell, each waterway and many a tree has an anecdote to share. All you have to do is to listen, see, and soak in the delight of a city where history resides in many a nook and crevice.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Boston Celtics won the NBA championship for the record 18th time. Here is a quiz on NBA champions — teams and players

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

Al Horford, the Celtics centre, finally won a ring when the Celtics overcame the Mavericks 4-1 this week. Horford had played 186 play-off games without winning the championship before he managed to do so. Who holds the record (193 games)?

QUESTION 2

Twelve of the 18 championships won by the Celtics featured a legend who passed away two years ago. This player still holds the record for winning the most rings in the NBA. Name him.

QUESTION 3

Joe Mazzula, the Celtics coach, won the championship at a young age, 35 years, 353 days, becoming the youngest coach to win the NBA ring since 1970. Name the former Los Angeles Lakers and Miami Heat coach whose record Mazzula broke. This coach set the record in 1982 when he was 37 years 80 days old.

QUESTION 4

What is common to the following teams — Indiana Pacers, Memphis Grizzlies, Los Angeles Clippers, Phoenix Suns, Minnesota Timberwolves, New Orleans Pelicans, Charlotte Hornets, Orlando Magic, Utah Jazz and the Brooklyn Nets?

QUESTION 5

Which was the last NBA team to win a repeat championship and in which years?

Visual question:
Identify this player who won seven NBA championships with three teams and highest for a non-Celtics player. WIKIPEDIA COMMONS

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. On June 19, 1953, this couple became the first American civilians to be executed for espionage. **Ans: Julius and Ethel Rosenberg**
2. This politician won the 1991 Nobel Peace Prize. **Ans: Aung San Suu Kyi**
3. This Soviet cosmonaut was the first woman to travel in space. **Ans: Valentina Tereshkova**
4. Name this country which gained its independence from Britain on June 19, 1961. **Ans: Kuwait**
5. This American baseball player, nicknamed "the Iron Horse", was born on June 19. **Ans: Lou Gehrig**
6. The reason why June 19 is a federal holiday in the U.S. **Ans: It is celebrated to commemorate the ending of slavery in the U.S.**
Visual: Identify this American actor who is best known for his work in this show. **Ans: James Gandolfini;** *The Sopranos*
Early Birds: Rajmohan. V| Rahul Nair| Niharbala Behera| Abhinav Raj| K.N. Viswanathan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subramanian

"Can the word choreograph go with fight? (A. Elavarasan, Puliyur)"

"Yes, it can. The word choreograph is derived from the Greek 'choreia' meaning 'dancing.' Choreography is "the art of composing ballets and other dances for the stage; especially planning and arranging the various movements of dancers." So when a person choreographs a dance, he/she not only invents the various steps and movements of the dance, but also teaches the dancers how to perform the dance.

Mala has agreed to choreograph our next dance.

The dances in the film were beautifully choreographed.

But now-a-days, the word choreograph has taken on a wider meaning. It does not refer to dancing alone, but to any activity that seems to look natural, but actually is the result of several rehearsals. The fights that we see in films are rehearsed several times before they are actually shot on camera. So we can say, the fights in Rocky IV were wonderfully choreographed."

"Appreciable, appreciate (P. R. Ananthavenkatesachar, Madras)."

"Appreciable means "capable of being readily perceived or estimated; considerable."

There is an appreciable drop in the number of students this year.

In this sentence, the word appreciable is used to indicate that the drop in the number of students is large enough to be noticeable. So when you talk about appreciable changes of any kind, you mean that the changes are so large that they are easily noticeable or perceivable.

During the month of March, share prices rose appreciably.

Many tend to confuse appreciable with appreciate. The word 'appreciate' has several meanings, one of which is "to increase in number or value."

The prices of shares appreciated in the month of March.

This means that the prices increased in the month of March. But this increase may be either big or small. On the other hand, if you say, the prices increased appreciably, it means there was a considerable increase. So it is possible for us to say, the share prices appreciated appreciably. Appreciable does not mean 'worthy of appreciation.'"

"Trade and Commerce (Rao Gogada, Rajahmundry)."

Both words refer to the "buying and selling of commodities." Commerce generally refers to business dealings between countries.

India must try and promote commerce with Australia.

Trade, on the other hand, can be carried on between countries, or between States, towns or individuals within a country. Thus it is possible for us to talk about 'domestic trade' as well as 'international trade.'

There was an unusually brisk trade at the market last week.

There is also a difference between the two words in terms of quantity. The buying and selling of goods in commerce are on a large scale; whereas in trade, they are done either on a small or big scale. So much for trade and commerce in general terms."

Published in The Hindu on June 9, 1992.

Word of the day

Interminable:
tiresomely long; seemingly without end

Synonyms: endless, eternal

Usage: *The priest gave an interminable sermon.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/interminablepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪnˈtɜː(ɹ).mɪn.ə.bəl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

What has restricting protests to Freedom Park meant for Bengaluru and its people?

A recent panel discussion titled 'Art as Activism: Creative Avenues for Voicing Dissent' had speakers talking about the importance of protest in a democratic society

Preeti Zachariah
BENGALURU

A file photo of a protest march condemning the murder of Gauri Lankesh in Bengaluru.

One of my favourite Bengaluru memories is gathering at Town Hall and singing," says Vinay Sreenivasa, breaking into a resistance song. Vinay has attended many such protests in different places in the city and even remembers sitting on the steps of Vidhana Soudha, another former protest site, eating corn. Today getting anywhere close to the steps of Vidhana Soudha means going through many layers of security.

Today a Bengalurean can only protest in Freedom Park, the 21-acre landmark on Seshadri Road that once housed the city's Central Jail. Even in Freedom Park, protests can only take place in a designated area "a parking lot where you are supposed to gather and raise slogans...where no one can see you," says the lawyer and activist at a recent panel discussion titled *Art as Activism: Creative Avenues for Voicing Dissent*. "This restriction has not just made it difficult to protest anywhere, it has also made overall dissent itself very difficult."

The importance of dissent

The event, which was held at the Bangalore International Centre (BIC), was centred around two broad topics: the ramifications of the ruling of the Karnataka High Court that limits public protests in Bengaluru to Freedom Park and how art can serve as a medium for dissent and drive social change. The panel, which Jhatkaa.org's Divya Narayanan moderated, also had visual artist Shilo Shiv Suleman and poet and academician Mamta Sagar, both of whom frequently use their art practice to drive conversation and catalyse social change.

Divya says protests, campaigns and movements have often been a powerful instrument globally and historically, not just in acquiring justice, but also in driving public awareness. "In India, freedom of expression is a constitutional right and raising concerns. Engaging with civil society movements and campaigns is fundamental to democracy," she says.

And yet, these non-violent movements are often met with high-handedness and repression, she says. "Our systems and infrastructure are increasingly becoming more opaque...intolerant to public discourse."

Stifling voices

In 2021, Anganwadi workers took out a rally in Bengaluru, demanding better pay.

"They wanted their salaries to be hiked since ₹8,000 was not enough to take care of their families," says Vinay. It was in that context that an interim order was passed that protests could only be held at Freedom Park. That was the beginning of restricting protests, he says.

Panellists at Art as Activism held at BIC, Bengaluru.

This move, he believes, has deeply impacted the average Bengalurean's right to free speech. "The Constitution says that we have the freedom of right and expression and also peaceful assembly," he says. "Protest leads to some justice... that is why it is important to retain the right to protest," he says, pointing out that this new rule has already made it difficult for people, especially from marginalised communities, to seek justice.

For instance, in the recent past, a historic rally that workers and workers' unions undertake was not allowed; farmers protesting against the state government over land acquisition were arrested and people who undertook a silent, peaceful walk opposing the construction of a flyover at Sankey Tank were penalised. "Many of us have at least one FIR, due to the Freedom Park rule, which is what we have to fight against," he says, referring to this rule as draconian. "Bangalore must remember the importance of protest," says Vinay.

Like Vinay, Mamta too has many memories of the city as a site of protest. For instance, she remembers waiting at the Ravindra Kalakshetra for the body of the scholar and revolutionary Saketh Rajan, who was shot by police in 2005. "His body was to be brought (here) after the post-mortem, but the police just took it and burnt it," says Mamta, who went on to write and perform a poem, titled *Song Slaughter*, for Saketh.

She also talks about the song she had written for her friend, Gauri Lankesh, who was murdered in cold-blood outside her home in Rajarajeshwari Nagar back in 2017. "It was performed by Vasu Dixit and Bindu Malini," she says, recalling how when Gauri was shot, all of Bengaluru became a site for protest. "No one could stop it. There were thousands of people who landed in Bengaluru for this protest," says Mamta, who also translated and performed Faiz Ahmad Faiz at the anti-CAA protest sites in the city.

Sugarcane farmers demanding revised FRP and opposing fixing of meters to agriculture pump sets. (Top) People taking part in a protest in Bengaluru, against the violence in Manipur. FILE PHOTOS

She firmly believes that poetry is a way of capturing socio-political nuance. "Poetry is a very powerful tool and has to be used carefully," she says. "It helps us sensitise minds, communities, people-...building a movement that involves getting a message across."

Art as a tool of resistance

At the event, Shilo also screened a video of women protestors at Shaheen Bagh, peacefully protesting against the CAA, one made during her time there creating community murals. "Shaheen was a very tense moment," she says, recollecting the horror of the sounds of gunshots they could hear in the background as they painted. "I remember as we were walking, we knew something was going to happen," she says.

She shares one particularly poignant memory of that time: an encounter with a policeman who walked up to them, as the scaffolding around a mural was coming down, and said that he hadn't seen anything so beautiful in his life. "Just like that beauty transcended all kinds of horrors." Being at Shaheen Bagh was a reminder that art in South Asia is not just additive to social justice but is our intergenerational lineage "to stand among the lineage of poets like Tagore and Faiz Ahmed Faiz," she says.

Fearless collective

The idea that art can be a tool of resistance and radical imagination is at the heart of the Fearless Collective, a global art collective Shilo founded in 2012. The collective, she says, works closely with misrepresented communities, using self-representation and self-determination as a form of storytelling and emotional alchemy.

"We take over public spaces as we are painting murals with these communities," says Shilo, who believes that putting the wishes of these communities in the public space is crucial. "My vision is for artists and art institutions to be able to realise that it is deeply, deeply important and vital for us to be a reflection of what is happening, to make the invisible visible through our art."

'Yoga for space' – a conference to commemorate International Day of Yoga

The conference outlined the activities and challenges of IDY 2024, orchestrated by the Ministry of AYUSH for society

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Panellists at the 'Yoga for space' conference.

The Central Council For Research In Yoga And Naturopathy, in collaboration with Svyasa, Deemed to be University, orchestrated a Conference on "Yoga for Space" at S-Vyasa University, Bengaluru, in observance of International Day of Yoga 2024 with the theme "Yoga for Self & Society."

IDY 2024

The conference's focus was on the convergence of experts from various fields to enhance society, including astronauts. The conference outlined the activities and challenges of IDY 2024, orchestrated by the Ministry of AYUSH for society, such as the "Yoga with Family" global video contest, YogaTech Challenges for innovative yoga ideas by Indian Start-ups, Yoga Quiz, Yoga Jingles, among others. These initiatives aim to raise awareness in society and promote vigorous yoga practice, recognizing that a healthy individual fosters a healthy society, as proclaimed by the theme of IDY 2024, said a release.

Representatives from institutions such as Human Space Flight Centre, ISRO, IIT Delhi, and the Institute for Aerospace Medicine addressed the conference. The inaugural session commenced with the reception of all keynote speakers by Dr. Manjunath NK, Vice Chancellor of Svyasa University.

Dr. Manjunath also highlighted the Yoga-related activities for IDY 2024 and underscored the importance of yoga in fostering a healthy society, drawing from quotes in classic literature, such as "Vasudaiva Kutumbhakam." He elaborated on the journey of S-Vyasa's founder, Dr. H.R. Nagendra, from NASA to the development of Vyasa (S-Vyasa).

Dr. Raghavendra Rao, Director of the Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy, Delhi, shed light on the inclusivity and diversity inherent in the IDY journey, showcasing yoga practices in extreme conditions on land, in the ocean, and throughout a day spanning from Japan to California, culminating in the exploration of yoga in space with this conference.

Dr. B.R. Ramakrishnan, Pro. Chancellor of S-Vyasa University, elucidated the conference's objectives with the quote "Gyanam Vigyanam Sahitam," signifying the amalgamation of ancient wisdom with space science and stressing the convergence of the best from the East and the West.He further underscored the significance of yoga.

Gangayan Mission

The scientific session commenced with a discourse on "Gaganyaan - Mission and Crew Safety" by Dr. C. Geethaikrishnan, Deputy Director (SRQ) of the Human Space Flight Center, ISRO, under the chairmanship of Dr. Satyaprabha T.N., Head of the Department of Neurophysiology at NIMHANS, Bengaluru.

The post-lunch session commenced with Dr. Biswajit Sinha from the Department of Physiology at the Institute of Aerospace Medicine in Bengaluru. The topic discussed was "Beyond Earth: Understanding Microgravity's influence on Physiology and Earth-Based Simulations," where he elucidated the physiological impacts of the space environment on the human body.

Following that, Lt. Col. (Dr.) Saveena George, also from the Department of Physiology at the Institute of Aerospace Medicine in Bengaluru, presented a session on "Exploring the effects of microgravity on the neurovestibular system." She delved into the significant physiological issue faced in space, which is neurovestibular imbalance leading to challenges in posture, orientation, and visual perception, causing health issues that astronauts undergo training for.

There were also sessions by Dr. Apar Soaji, the Principal of TSYNM, S-vyasa and Yoga teacher of Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma, and Shri. N.V. Raghuram the Founder of Yoga Bharati, who provided insights based on his extensive knowledge and real experiences.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 20, 1974

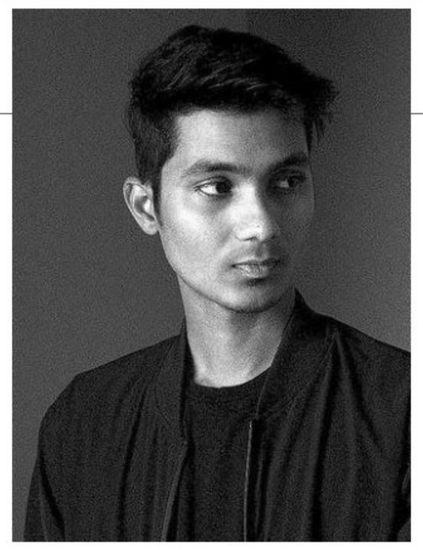
Sarees Stolen from Goods Bundles: 2 Held

Bangalore, June 19: Prompt action by the City Police has led to the recovery of 760 silk sarees valued at over Rs 75,000. The Commissioner of Police, Mr. M. L. Chandrasekhar told newsmen to-day that the sarees were involved in two theft cases and the police had arrested a youth and a booking clerk. A Delhi merchant who had purchased 360 silk sarees valued at Rs. 35,000 in Bangalore, sent them by train to Delhi in five bundles. When the bundles were unpacked, they contained only cotton waste. It was alleged that on a complaint made by the merchant, the police arrested a 33-year old person.

Drought Areas Project Sent to Centre

Bangalore, June 19: The Karnataka Government has sent to the Government of India a Rs. 34.60 crore project for the development of drought prone areas in 10 revenue districts in the State. The project prepared by the University of Agricultural Sciences is intended to be implemented during the Fifth Plan to continue the measures under implementation to insulate 42 taluks from frequent droughts. The State Government has been implementing a "Drought-prone Area Programme" since 1970-71 with the aid of the Centre which had approved an outlay of Rs. 12.84 crores with Rs. 10 crores as its commitment. The total amount spent on the programme includes roads : afforestation, soil conservation and minor irrigation works.

Gear up for an evening of head-banging and foot-stomping to the beats of Drum and Bass India



Get with the beat poets

Anurag Tagat

When Drum and Bass India (Dnb India) started in 2013, it intended to represent the up-tempo electronic music movement in its "purest form", according to the community organisation's co-founder Debjyoti Das.

Joined by Ritu Arya as co-founder, Das says they were building upon several years of groundwork laid down by the likes of DJs like Vachan Chinnappa. "He (Chinnappa) encountered jungle (a style that led to drum and bass music) as early as 1992 in Mysore," Das says.

From small parties to now having large parties and tours, Drum and Bass India has teamed up with UK's leading drum and bass label Hospital Records to mount a four-city tour called Hospitality, a global event series run by the label.

The label's top artists, including Anaïs, Degs and Whiney, make their India debut as part of the tour, which concludes on June 23 in Bengaluru with a sundowner show at Koramangala SOCIAL. "We keep getting messages from around the country asking us to get global talents to India, and we are happy to deliver on a big scale now," Das adds.

Das, who makes music under the moniker, The Untitled One, is part of the Hospitality line-up in Bengaluru, alongside Sri Lankan DJ-producer Iyre and Indian artists such as High Rez, Big Trouble, Hunnit D, Sharma, Dwij, and Sinister. Das recounts that it is only fitting that Iyre performs as part of this new series in India, considering his India tour in September last year was the one that caught the eye of Hospital Records, particularly Hospitality's events manager James King-Thompson.

"You won't believe it, I actually pinched myself when I saw the message from James," Das says with a laugh.

"As an artist, this is a dream come true to share the stage with them and moreover, I am happy to present these artists to the Indian Drum and Bass fans," he adds.

In a press release, King-Thompson spoke about Hospitality's collaboration with Drum and Bass India to bring these artists down.

For a rocking time The musicians are all set to enthral Bengaluru SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"We have always had a strong desire to deliver a Hospitality tour in India- ...music and dance are intrinsically rooted in India's culture and a place where we know drum and bass music will be received with full in-the-moment passion and energy," he says.

Das, for his part, says fans in the city can expect top-notch music from international and Indian DJs, a great sound system and a 360 DJ setup (where the audience are all around the DJ decks) and an "amazing vibe in a sundowner setup".

He particularly credits the SOCIAL team, considering all Hospitality India shows are taking place at their outlets in the country.

In addition to Bengaluru, the tour has stops in New Delhi (June 20), Mumbai (June 21) and Hyderabad (June 22), concluding in Bengaluru on June 23. Das says there are more tours being planned by Drum and Bass India following this run of shows.

"After handling this massive four-city Hospitality India Tour, we have better understanding to do things bigger. We are already planning more Hospital DJs to come down and also hoping to send Indian drum and bass DJs and producers to represent India in the UK and EU under Hospitality," he signs off.

Hospitality Bangalore is on June 23, 2 pm onwards at Koramangala SOCIAL. Entry: ₹499 onwards, tickets available via TicketFairy.com and https://bit.ly/HospitalityBangalore

CITYBEATS

Turkish delight

ONGOING
Treat yourself to a traditional Turkish breakfast – *Kahvalti*, which translates to 'first meal of the day' or a 'light meal before the morning coffee'. There will be dishes such as *menamin* (made with eggs, tomatoes, green peppers and spices), *pide* (a Turkish flatbread) and honey with *kaymek*, a dessert.
At Öz by Kebapci. Call 70906 77771 for details.

High time

ONGOING
SOCIAL introduces the un-BEER-Lievable Weekdays offer where the beer will be served at MRP price. The offer is on from Monday to Thursday.
The limited offer will be on till June 27 and the nibbles range includes nachos, *chakna* box and magic kebabs.
The offer is on across all outlets of SOCIAL.

For some laughs

JUNE 22
Laugh out loud with a stand-up comedy show that features humourist Harsh Gujral. Harsh is also a social media celebrity and his brand of observational humour is said to be fresh and contemporary, and has struck a chord with audiences across India. Tickets are priced at ₹499 and available on BookMyShow.
At 8th Level, Nexus Mall, Whitefield, 7.30pm.

Exploring brave spaces

Praveen Sudevan

In *Touchy Topic*, an artistically innovative and emotionally evocative performance, Durga Venkatesan explores the pervasive issue of sexual harassment through a non-verbal medium. This performance dissolves traditional theatrical boundaries by immersing spectators in an active role.

In *Touchy Topic*, Durga stands motionless for a full 60 minutes, allowing the audience to interact with her in a profoundly-personal way. Participants are invited to approach the artist and use white paint to leave a fingerprint on any part of her body where they have been touched inappropriately. This silent exchange, she explains, transforms the audience from mere spectators into "spect-actors," individuals who actively shape the performance with their personal stories and emotions.

The idea grew out of a 10-day workshop she attended in Mumbai, which focused on creating solo performances inspired by personal experiences. "It sparked a desire to explore the issue of inappropriate touching, something I've unfortunately faced living in Delhi. Safety, or the lack thereof, is constantly drilled into us," Durga recounts, talking over the phone from Bengaluru. .

Power of silence Durga Venkatesan explores the non-verbal medium SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"The reason I chose a non-verbal approach for this piece is that, as many of us know, talking about inappropriate touching and sexual harassment can be difficult," Durga explains, "We might lack confidence or simply not feel safe enough to speak up. Just like me, many struggle to articulate these experiences. That's where creativity comes in."

"This performance is deeply personal for me," Venkatesan shares. "It stems from a long history of inappropriate touching that began as early as when I was five-years-old. This performance is my way of creating a space for others to express themselves, perhaps for the first time.For survivors, it can be a step towards acknowledging and accepting their experiences," she says, "For others, who haven't faced inappropriate touching or harassment, the sheer number of participants can be a revelation, creating awareness and empathy. Witnessing the silent stories can catalyse both anger and a desire to make a change."

Durga's work is about bravery and vulnerability. Her journey and the performance's evolution are intertwined. "Initially, I had the same anxieties anyone would - standing completely still while absorbing people's raw emotions," she admits. "But something shifted within me after the first show. A sense of belonging bloomed in that room, surrounded by people who understood. We weren't just creating a safe space but a brave space."

The piece premiered at Prithvi House in Mumbai and was recently performed again at Lahe Lahe in Bengaluru. Venkatesan's previous shows elicited diverse reactions, with the atmosphere in each city distinctly shaping the performance. "In Bombay, the energy was high, with around 50 people in attendance. Many people participated, leaving their fingerprints. In contrast, the atmosphere in Bangalore was much calmer. People seemed deeply introspective, piecing together stories behind the fingerprints in the quiet, darkened space."

According to the artist, *Touchy Topic* is not about finding a single outcome but rather about providing a space for exploration and personal journeys. "Some might find it cathartic, releasing pent-up emotions. Others might feel anger bubble up to the surface. Still others might simply need quiet reflection."

Touchy Topic *will be performed on June 23 at Shoonya Centre for Somatic Arts and Practices, Lal Bagh Road. Tickets are available on insider.in.*

Driven by passion The team meets every evening to practice theatre, and (below) directors Vishal Nayer and Venkatesan Vaidhyanathan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A trilogy on stage

Shilpa Anandraj

Trident!ty directed by Venkatesan Vaidhyanathan and Vishal Nayer, premiers in Benglauru this weekend. Staged by MISF!T (My Interest Stays Firmly in Theatre), the play is a trilogy, says Venkatesan over a call from Koramangala amidst rehearsals.

Trident!ty is a multi-genre play, says Venkatesan. "It is set in three timelines – the 1940s, the 1980s, and 2010 and connected by a single thread. The first story is a period comedy, the second is a tragicomedy, and the third is a black comedy."

Venkatesan has been involved with theatre since his school days. "Vishal is also a serious theatre practitioner, and both of us have worked with Ratan for nearly 18 years."

The first story centers around a young girl whose life is drastically altered during Partition, the second focuses on the tumultuous relationship between a couple and deals with the anxieties of the time (patriarchy, regressive thoughts and identity fixation), while the third is set in in an office and highlights office politics, power struggles, and societal pressures on career and personal growth.

Venkastesan, who is a part of MISF!T, gives credit to its founder, the late Ratan Thakore Grant. "Ratan was a theatre personality who dazzled the audiences as an actor, choreographer, writer, director and as a teacher. He believed that anyone can act with proper guidance and to implement that he started MISF!T in 2001."

Grant started by conducting acting workshops, says Venkatesan. "He staged original plays. Over a period of time, he taught thousands. The original material is the USP of MISF!T. We believe our country has a rich and diverse culture, with so many stories, that can inspire us to write original plays rather than doing pre-written Western plays."

MISF!T is now managed by Grant's students, which includes Venkatesan and Vishal. "We manage the studio and also conduct acting programmes and plays. All the actors chip in to create a story, script and direct. We have theatre practitioners with us aged from 16 to 62 years. "

Before *Trident!ty,* the studio staged *Connectologues V3.0*. "It was an interesting concept that Ratan created. It was an original play."

The cast and crew for *Trident!ty* Venkatesan says number 16. "All of us are working professionals, who meet up post our day jobs and rehearse in the evenings. We had to give up our original studio space, so now we either rent a place or meet up in one of the member's homes for rehearsals."

Trident!ty will feature Sumeet Sirohi, Raupya Viraktamath, Ujani Ghosh, Adarsh Shree Ram, Abhinav Singh Aakash, Tapas Agarwal, Eve, Akhil Parameswaran, Yash Agarwal, Ashish Verma, Kshema Shetty, Manjunath Gowda, Hrishita Brahma, Kavya K Subramanya, Gomathi Raveendran, Nazar Abul Hassain.

It will be staged on June 22 at Prabhath KEA Rangamandira Auditorium, at 3.30pm and 7.30pm. Tickets available on BookMyShow.

INBRIEF

Bangalore Turf Club to hold summer races from June 22

Bangalore Turf Club wrote to the secretaries of various turf clubs in the country on Wednesday to inform them of the commencement of the Bangalore Summer Meeting 2024 from June 22. The letter requests these other turf clubs to arrange for inter-venue betting operations for the Bengaluru summer races.

When BTC made an application before the State government recently for a licence to conduct racing and betting activities for the racing season 2024-25, the government rejected the application on June 6. This was challenged in the High Court of Karnataka by BTC. The High Court, in an interim order on June 18, stayed the June 6 decision of the State government. It also observed that the State government "*prima facie* acted in an irrational, illegal, arbitrary and unreasonable manner" in refusing to grant a licence to Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) to conduct racing and betting activities.

Theatre personality Na. Rathna passes away

Veteran theatre personality N. Rathna, popularly known as Na. Rathna, passed away in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Dr. Rathna, who has served as director of All India Institute of Speech and Hearing (AIISH) in Mysuru, was 89. He suffered a heart attack, said sources close to him. He leaves behind his wife, son, and daughter. He founded the theatre group Samathento.

His body was brought to his residence in Mysuru on Wednesday afternoon. It was later shifted to Kalamandira, where a large number of theatre enthusiasts and admirers paid their last respects. The body was later donated to JSS Medical College and Hospital as per his wish, according to sources.

With Priyanka's bypoll entry, CPI and BJP face tough choice

Parties are in a quandary over fielding strong candidates against her in Wayanad byelection; they had put up heavyweights in recently concluded polls and saw an increase in vote share from 2019

NEWS ANALYSIS

Biju Govind
KOZHIKODE

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

While the candidature of Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra in the Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll has enthused the rank and file of the party, the decision has apparently put the Communist Party of India (CPI), a member of the INDIA bloc, and the BJP in a quandary over fielding strong candidates against her.

The leadership of both parties are ambiguous in their stand on whether they will nominate formidable contestants, as they did against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi in the Lok Sabha elections. Unlike the 2019 Lok Sabha polls when Mr. Gandhi had to face lightweight contestants, the CPI nominated its national executive member Annie Raja, and the BJP, its State president K. Surendran, in the just-concluded polls.

This shift was reflected in the vote shares of the three main candidates this time. Mr. Gandhi's vote share fell from 64.94% to 59.69%, while Ms. Raja's and Mr. Surendren's vote shares increased by 0.8% and 5.75% respectively. One factor is that in 2019, the majority of voters in Wayanad saw a potential Prime Minister in Mr. Gandhi.

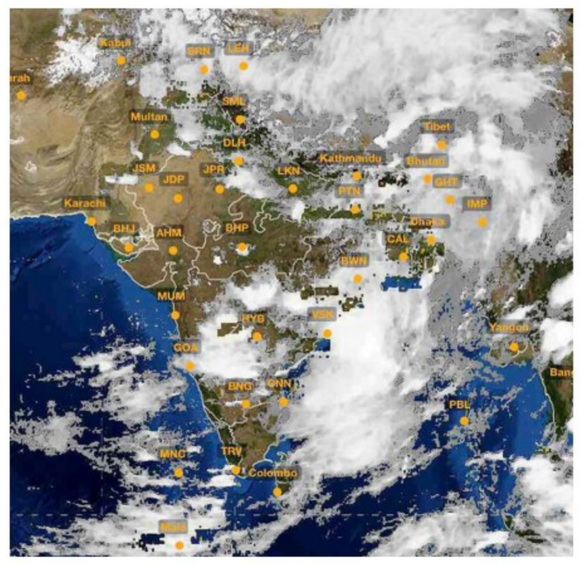
It is understood that Ms. Raja, while welcoming Ms. Vadra's candidature, is not keen to contest the byelection for various reasons. Many now believe that the CPI should field a local leader who can garner better support. In the 2014 polls, CPI leader Sathyan Mokeri secured 38.92% of the votes against the 41.21% obtained by the late Congress leader M.I. Shanavas.

No decision yet

The BJP has not yet decided whether to field Mr. Surendran or a senior leader. Even though they have consistently finished a distant third in all elections since the constituency's creation in 2009, the BJP, along with its ally Bharath Dharma Jana Sena (BDJS) (which fielded its president Thushar Vellappally in 2019), remains politically committed to putting up a strong fight. In 2024, the BJP increased its vote share by over 62,000 votes.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, Sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, coastal Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe. Hot & Humid weather likely to prevail over Bihar and Odisha

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	59	27.6	23.8	Kozhikode	7	34.4	24.8
Ahmedabad	—	38.0	29.6	Kurnool	17	35.1	24.5
Aizawl	42	29.9	21.3	Lucknow	—	43.1	30.6
Allahabad	—	40.9	31.9	Madurai	—	37.2	25.6
Bengaluru	0.4	31.0	22.2	Mangaluru	1	30.2	25.1
Bhopal	12	37.2	18.0	Mumbai	20	33.1	25.5
Bhubaneswar	—	36.6	26.1	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	43.6	31.7	New Delhi	—	43.6	35.2
Chennai	14.2	35.1	22.5	Patna	0.1	41.4	29.7
Coimbatore	—	33.7	23.8	Port Blair	0.2	31.5	26.5
Dehradun	—	40.7	28.0	Puducherry	—	36.7	25.6
Gangtok	35	20.4	18.2	Pune	2	31.8	24.9
Goa	9	32.4	25.6	Raipur	—	37.6	24.5
Guwahati	43	26.0	22.8	Ranchi	—	37.5	28.0
Hubballi	—	30.0	23.0	Shillong	48	19.3	16.5
Hyderabad	—	33.1	26.3	Shimla	—	34.2	23.3
Imphal	5	26.9	15.1	Srinagar	—	29.5	18.0
Jaipur	—	41.7	30.8	Thiruvananthapuram	14	29.9	25.9
Kochi	14	31.0	25.6	Tiruchi	7	35.1	23.0
Kohima	13	20.0	16.0	Vijayawada	2	35.6	26.6
Kolkata	—	36.0	30.2	Visakhapatnam	—	36.8	28.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.24	..75	18	... 150	...133	
Bengaluru	.14	..22	81	 39	50	
Chennai	...5	7	92	 37	34	
Delhi	.18	118	57	... 346	...377	
Hyderabad	.34	..29	31	 47	67	
Kolkata	.12	..33	39	 42	61	
Lucknow	.13	..33	90	... 185	...168	
Mumbai	.15	..10	32	 15	...114	
Pune	..—	..36	85	 28	39	
Visakhapatnam	.11	..53	30	 50	...105	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 368 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 23

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Hyderabad scribe booked

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Revathi Pogadadanda, a journalist, was booked for posting on X about power cuts in Hyderabad, and for saying that a lineman had harassed a woman. The case was booked after a complaint from an Assistant Engineer of Telangana State Southern Power Distribution Company disputing her statement.

Pawan Kalyan takes charge as Deputy CM

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Jana Sena Party (JSP) president and Pithapuram MLA K. Pawan Kalyan took charge as Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Rural Water Supply, Environment, Forest and Science and Technology, at his camp office here on Wednesday.

After taking charge, Mr. Kalyan signed files to sanction funds for horticulture works under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) and construction of gram panchayat buildings in the tribal areas.

Principal Secretary Shashi Bhushan Kumar and other officials were present. Ministers Nadendla Manohar and Kandula Durgesh conveyed their best wishes.

National Urban Health Mission
Bengaluru City Health & Family Welfare Society ®
BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Chief Health Officers (PH), Annex Building-2, BBMP Head Office, N R Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.
No:CPMO/NUHM/PR/150/23-24/2024-25 Date: 19.06.2024

NOTIFICATION

The Walk-In process was implemented from 13.02.2024 to 15.02.2024 to fill the vacant posts for 01 year on outsource/contract basis, the paper notification was published on 08.02.2024 under National Urban Health Mission, NLEP, NTEP, DMHP, NUHM, NPCB & RCH Programmes. In accordance with the above notification, the list of candidates selected under Merit cum Roaster is published in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Website **(https://bbmp.gov.in).** If any objections pertaining to the temporary selection list, the objections may be submited by the Candidates/General Public before 07 Government working days from the date of this notification to City Program Management Office, #304, Annex-3, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002. In person or post (Register Post). This is to inform that, the objections received after 7 working days are not considered.

Sd/- Chief Health Officer (PH)
Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.
ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ2.ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:06:2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18–06–2024

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (4ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 02 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ ವಿಶೇಷ ಅನುದಾನ (3ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ (2ನೇ ಕರೆ) – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, 2023–24 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ – 01 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ, ದರಪಟ್ಟಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನ (EOI) – 03 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಒಟ್ಟು 09 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಸಿಂಗಲ್/ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ www.davanagerecity.mrc.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: +91–8046010000 +91–8068948777 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

(1) ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾದ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21–06–2024 (2) ಪ್ರೀ ಬಿಡ್ ಮೀಟಿಂಗ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ (ರೂ.100.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ) : 26–06–2024 ಸಮಯ : 11.00 (3) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 29–06–2024 ಸಮಯ : 16.30 (4) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 29–06–2024 ಸಮಯ : 17.00 ಟೆಂಡರ್/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ : 01–07–2024 ಸಮಯ : 11.00

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/68/ಕೆಎಸ್ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

CITY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL HOSAPETE
No: CMC HPT/WS/MF/2023-24 Dated: 18-06-2024

TENDER NOTIFICATION (IFT) E-PROCUREMENT

2023-24 Municipal Fun tenders are invited for the work mentioned below as per KTPP act 2000 in two cover system are invited from the eligible Contractors/Firms registered in KPWD as mentioned below. in e-procurement the contractors / firms will have to upload all information, documents and rates etc., www.kppp.karnataka.govt.in 1) Tender Last Date: 03-07-2024 5.00 PM. 2) Opening for Technical Bid will be on Date: 04-07-2024 5.10 PM. 3) Opening for Financial Bid will be on Date: 05-07-2024 5.10 PM **Indent No:** 1) **DMA/2024-25/WS/WORK_INDENT18546** Estimated Cost Rs in (Lakh) 113.50 any other information required can be obtained from the office of the CMC Hosapete during the working hours.

Sd/- Assistant Executive Engineer, CMC Hosapete. **Sd/- Municipal Commissioner CMC Hosapete**

DIPR/Vijayanagar/2024-25/KSMCA/RO No/55

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through e-Tender)

KPCL invites tender in e-procurement portal from the experienced agencies/firm having adequate experience and financial turnover. **1) KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT1441, Date: 11.06.2024** Operation and housekeeping services of Machineries at BTPS workshop (viz. Lathe machines, Drilling machines, Milling machine, Shaping machine, Shearing machine, Pressing Machine, EoT crane etc.) for a period of one year. **EMD: Rs.49,317/-. 2) KPCL/2024-25/ PS/WORK_INDENT1446, Date: 11.06.2024** Servicing and replacement of spares required for various capacity Hydraulic jacks and pumps of ENERPAC Make from authorised dealer and suppliers. EMD: **Rs.6,725/-. 3) KPCL/2024-25/WORK_INDENT1506 Date: 11.06.2024** Servicing of Single Girder Under slung EoT cranes by removing (to take down), dismantling, supply, repair, erection, testing and commissioning at Unit- 1, 2 & 3 mill floor of BTPS. **EMD: Rs.21,976/-.** Last date for submission of tenders through e-portal PQR BID/Technical Bid: **27.06.2024.** Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Further details can be had from the **Executive Engineer (MM),** BTPS, KPCL, Kudithini - 583152, Bellary Dist. Mobile: +91 9448290571.

KARNATAKA RURAL ROAD DEVELOPMENT AGENCY
Office of the Executive Engineer, Project division Raichur
e-mail: kn-rai@pmgsy.nic.in Web site : http://www.krrda.in
NO. EE/PDRCR/KKRDB/Short Term Tender/2024-25/166 Dt:18-06-2024

SHORT TERM TENDER-03

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, EE Project Division Karnataka Rural Road Development Agency-Raichur, invites Item Rate Tenders in Raichur District through e- procurement under KKRDB 2023-24 fund (As per guidelines of KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4).

Calendar of Events of tendering is as follows: 1) EMD: As per KPPP portal **2) Name of work & Indent No:** 1)KRRDA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT64/Call-2. 2)KRRDA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT66/Call-2. 3) KRRDA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT63. 4) KRRDA/2024-25/RD/WORK_INDENT73 **3) Accessing the bid document on e- procurement portal from:** 21-06-2024 **4) Last date for online submission of Technical Bids:** 01-07-2024 (16.00 Hours) **5) Opening of Technical Bid:** 02-07-2024 (10:30 Hours) **6) Opening of Financial Bid:** Will be intimated later on **7) Contractor Category:** As mentioned in KPPP portal **8) For Information:** Executive Engineer, Project Division, Raichur. **9) For Further details:** https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Project Division, Raichur

DIP/RCR/38KSMCA/37/2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO WHOMSOEVER IT MAY CONCERN

My clients are negotiating to purchase the immovable property being residential building bearing Site No.24, (House list No.3-1) formed in Survey No.3/1, situated at Munnekolala Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk. [now coming with the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.149. Varthur], measuring East to West: 40' feet and North to South: 38' feet, totally measuring an extent of 1520 Sq.ft., consisting of residential houses in Gf+5 upper floors., which is more fully described in the SCHEDULE hereunder and hereinafter referred as "SCHEDULE PROPERTY" from its absolute owners Sri.Santosh Kumar.S, aged 38 years, S/o.Sri.H.Srinivas, & SMT.RENUKA SANTOSH, aged 35 years, wife of Sri.Santosh Kumar.S, residing at Flat No.501, "HSR Residency", No.2m 3rd Main, 4th Cross, Ashirwad Colony, Horamavu Main Road,Bengaluru-560 043, for a valuable sale consideration amount.

The aforesaid SRI.SANTOSH KUMAR.S, & SMT.RENUKA SANTOSH, have represented to my clients that they are the absolute owners of the schedule property having acquired the same by virtue of a registered sale deed dated:15.12.2022 executed by its previous owner Smt.Hemavathi, they have further represented that the schedule property is free from all or any kind of charges, claims, encumbrances, Court Attachments, injunctions, Minor claims, or any sort of claims of whatsoever nature and there are no subsisting sale agreements or contracts binding them or the schedule property and there is no hindrance, impediment or obstacle for the proposed sale transaction in respect of the schedule property in favor of my clients.

Any person/persons claiming to have any sort of right, title, claim, interest, lien, agreement or charge over the schedule property or any part thereof or any other claims or objections for the proposed sale transaction, may lodge their objections/claims along with supporting documents with the undersigned within 15 days from the date of publication of this public notice.

If no such objections/claims are received within the prescribed time, my clients will proceed to complete the sale transaction and if any objections or claims is lodged beyond the prescribed period to time, it shall not be reckoned and it shall be deemed that all objections and claims by whosoever are waived.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the immovable property being residential building bearing Site No.24, (House list No.3-1) formed in Survey No.3/1, situated at Munnekolala Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk. [now coming with the jurisdiction of BBMP Ward No.149. Varthur], measuring East to West: 40' feet and North to South: 38' feet, totally measuring an extent of 1520 Sq.ft., consisting of residential houses in Gf+5 upper floors, having a total super build area of approx. 9000 Sq ft., and bounded on: East by: Property belonging to Mamtha & Radha Property earlier belonging to Aagrawala. North by: Property belonging to SF Khamar Property earlier belonging to Srinivas Reddy. South by: Road

H.S.Somnath, Advocate,
No.GF-4, Ground Floor,
"Sampurna Chambers", No.13,
Vasavi Temple Road, V.V.Puram,
Bengaluru-560 0004
Mob: +91 98452 76908

Date: 20th June 2024

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಅಭಿಯಾನ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕು.ಕ. ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಹಳೇ ಕ್ಷಯ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ಹಳೇ ಮದ್ರಾಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಇಂದಿರಾನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 038.

ಸಂ:ಡಿಹೆಚ್ಎಸ್/ಬೆಂ.ನ.ಜಿ/ಆರ್‌ಬಿಎಸ್‌ಕೆ/ಹೊವಾ/01/2024–25/Call-5 ದಿನಾಂಕ:18.06.2024

ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ 2024–25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಎನ್.ಹೆಚ್.ಎಂ. ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಬಾಲಾ ಸ್ವಾಸ್ಥ್ಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿಗೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಘಟಕಕ್ಕೆ ಹೊರಗುತ್ತಿಗೆ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ವಾಹನಗಳ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ ನಿಯಮಾನುಸಾರ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟಿ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಕರೆದಿದ್ದು, https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅಸಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **19.06.2024 ರಿಂದ 06.07.2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಹಳೇ ಕ್ಷಯ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಆವರಣ, ಹಳೇ ಮದ್ರಾಸ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಇಂದಿರಾನಗರ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560 038 ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸುವುದು.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಖ್ಯೆ/ವಾಪ್ರ/ಜಿಎ/436/2024–25

ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ & ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
(RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Tenders are invited through KPP Portal: **https://kppp.kamataka.gov.in** from the contractors/agencies/who are reputed individuals/Company and having past experience, for the following works. **1). KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT 1495, Dated: 10.06.2024**. Periodical Maintenance of Boiler & its auxiliaries, Rectification of Boiler Tube Failures and associated works of Units # 1 to 4 Boilers of RTPS for a period of one year. EMD: **Rs. 2,10,000/-. 2). KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT 1509 Dated:10.06.2024**. Radiography of Weld joints of Pressure parts of Units # 1 to 8 Boilers during Annual Overhauling works and Emergency Tube Failures for a Period of one year. EMD: **Rs. 78,000/-. 3). KPCL/2024-25/PS/WORK_INDENT 1518 Dated: 11.06.2024**. Availing of services of expert personnel for supervision of overhauling works of boiler & auxiliaries (Units 1 to 8). EMD: **Rs.1,92,000/-**. Last date for submission of tender: For Sl. No. 1 & 2, **25.06.2024** and For Sl. No.3, **26.06.2024.** The detailed notification regarding subject enquiry in the e-Precuremenf Process can be obtained by logging on to GoK Public Procurement website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Further details can be obtained from the office of the **Superintending Engineer (Mechanical Maintenance-1) KPCL, RTPS, Shaktinagar - 584170, Raichur District, Karnataka State.** Website: **https://kpcl.karnataka.gov.in.**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders from registered agencies for the following works.

Sl. No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD(In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
Office of the Chief Engineer(WWM-East), 5th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
1	(WWM-STP) CV	BWSSB/EE(WWM-STP)CV/PB/107/2024-25, Date: 13.06.2024(2nd Call)	Rs. 14,23,240/- / Rs. 35,600/-	27.06.2024 upto 4:00 p.m.	29.06.2024 after 11:00 a.m.
Sd/- Executive Engineer(WWM-STP)CV.					
Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
2	South -1	BWSSB/EES-1/TO/AE/439/2024-25, Date: 14.06.2024(2nd Call)	Rs. 6,62,056/- / Rs. 19,600/-	04.07.2024 upto 4:00 p.m.	06.07.2024 after 4:00 p.m.
Sd/- Executive Engineer(South)-1.					
Office of the Chief Engineer (Project), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.					
3	Central Stores	BWSSB/EE(CStr)/AEE/AE/STR/162/2024-25, Date: 19.06.2024	Rs. 92,16,000/- / Rs. 1,84,320/-	08.07.2024 before 4:00 p.m.	10.07.2024 at 12:00 Noon
Sd/- Executive Engineer(Central Stores).					

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/443/2024-25

ಪುರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ.
Email: itstaff_ulb_ckbanavara@yahoo.com
Website: https://chikkabanavaratown.mrc.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಪು.ಕಾ.ಚಿ./ಅ.ವಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್/01/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.06.2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆಕ್ಟ್ 2000ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್‌ನ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **ಎಸ್.ಬಿ.ಎಂ. ಅನುದಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಪುರಸಭಾ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ ಪುರಸಭೆಗೆ ಒಂದು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ Front end back hoe loader (71 to 76 HP) (Indent No. DMA/2024-25/IND1893)** ವಾಹನ ಖರೀದಿಸಲು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಡೆ ಸಹಿ ಮಾಡಿರುವವರು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಅಧಿಕೃತ ವಾರಾಟಗಾರರು/ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಕರೆದಿರುವ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05.07.2024 ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಶಾಖೆಯಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ಆಡಳಿತಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ ಹಾಗೂ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ

ಸಹಿ/–
ಮುಖ್ಯಾಧಿಕಾರಿ ಪುರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಾಣಾವರ

DIPR/CP/YC/435/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, BBMP, Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone, Bangalore-560091.

No.SADH/RRN/Tender/02/2024-25 Date:19.06.2024

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)
(Through GoK KPP Portal Only) (Two Cover System)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone, invites tenders for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Annual Maintenance of Borewells in Yeshwanthpura Constituency Parks in RR Nagar Zone. **Estimated Cost : Rs. 20,00,000/-. EMD : Rs. 50,000/-**
2	Annual Maintenance of Borewells in Rajarajeshwarinagar Constituency Parks in RR Nagar Zone. **Estimated Cost : Rs. 40,97,000/-. EMD : Rs. 82,000/-**

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 24.06.2024 onwards. 2)** Pre bid Meeting: **28.06.2024 at 11:30 AM. 3)** Last date for submission of Tender: **03.07.2024 at 4:00 PM. 4)** Opening of Technical bid: **04.07.2024 at 4:30 PM.** Further details can be obtained from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and office of the Undersigned.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Rajarajeshwarinagara Zone, BBMP, Bangalore.

A torrid crisis

A prolonged summer should be classified as a natural disaster

Northern India has been bearing the brunt of the longest stretch of heatwaves in the last 15 years. The minimum day temperatures in some States have consistently remained above 45° C and those in the relatively cooler ones, at least 3°-6° C above what is usual for this time of the year. Even night temperatures have consistently been 3°-6° C above normal, a consequence of the near-absence of moisture and rain. To add to this, the monsoon has been sluggish. After an early start, the monsoon has stalled since June 12 and is stuck in central India. Before its onset over Kerala, the India Meteorological Department had forecast the rainfall in June over India to be 'normal'. It has now updated that estimate to be 'below normal' or, in quantitative terms, a minimum 8% shortfall over the month's expected quantum of 16.69 cm. This update, however, is not useful as it does not give an insight into the progress of the monsoon. The normal dates of the monsoon's arrival over the northwestern and northern States are those spanning the June 25-July 1 timeframe. Whether the monsoon's current hiatus will push these dates even further remains to be seen. A prolonged hiatus could mean an even greater load on the infrastructure in these States.

On June 17, the Power Ministry said that demand in northern India had surged to 89 GW (89,000 MW) – the highest in a single day. To meet this power requirement, nearly 25%-30% had to be "imported" from the other four regions – south, west, east and north-east – and possibly Bhutan. A precise break-up was not provided. Though the Ministry claimed credit in meeting the demand, it indirectly reveals the strain on the infrastructure. The installed power capacity in northern India is 113 GW (1,13,000 MW) and if the northern grid still needed to import power, it suggests an inability to utilise its full capacity. Delhi's international airport had a half-hour blackout on the same day and it stands to reason that prolonged heatwaves and demands on cooling are only going to further strain the grid. Compounding this is the water crisis that has gripped Delhi. While water pilferage is a common woe, the heat has exacerbated demand, and Haryana, a key source of water for Delhi, has refused to increase supply citing its own constraints. It is high time that politics is set aside and the prolonged summer is holistically addressed by the Centre and States as a natural disaster.

Caste away

Efforts to end caste discrimination should do more than hide caste identity

The overt display of caste pride among schoolchildren in several parts of Tamil Nadu has often resulted in bloodshed. And the Justice K. Chandru Committee, constituted against the backdrop of a murderous assault on two Scheduled Caste (SC) siblings by their dominant community schoolmates in Nanguneri, has sought to remedy the situation. In its exhaustive report, it has recommended to the State government that students be prohibited from having any coloured wristbands, rings, or forehead marks (*tilaka*), which serve as caste identities. Students must refrain from using bicycles that are painted with any sign of caste reference. Besides, school names are not to bear any caste appellation. It has also called for the caste confidentiality of pupils. Such recommendations are not new. A quarter of a century ago, following caste clashes in the southern districts, the government had dropped the names of caste, community and leaders given to transport corporations and districts. Much earlier, it had experimented with the dropping of caste surnames from street signboards. A few years ago, the caste surnames of popular leaders were erased from textbooks.

The committee has rightly recommended that the government appoint a Social Justice Monitoring Committee comprising academicians and social activists to check the curriculum relating to social issues and suggest modifications, and push for the inclusion of topics based on social justice, equality, and non-discrimination. The suggestion to revise the B.Ed and Diploma in Elementary Education syllabuses to ensure orientation towards inclusivity is welcome. But the government would do well to ignore the regressive recommendation to do away with noon meal kitchens in every school. A centralised kitchen in every block/panchayat union, as recommended by the committee, may perhaps help in masking the caste identity of cooks, but it does not remedy the prevailing discrimination. Apart from practical difficulties in distributing food from central kitchens, children would be deprived of hot and fresh food. The suggestion to establish a uniformed Social Justice Students Force, which will "operate independently of the union government", and conduct regular drills and exercises, also needs to be viewed with caution. The existing NCC, Scouts and Guides and NSS setup is adequate enough to offer students such a space. The government must be cognisant of addressing discrimination which starts in children's habitats that are awash with caste-identifiable colours – from drinking water pipes to bus stops. The electoral success of parties with caste vote banks has only spawned more such outfits whose leaders use impressionable teenagers as political capital. Distressingly, such outfits are courted by mainstream parties. Unless there is a transformation at the village level and a political will to transcend caste considerations, efforts to establish harmony among school students on campuses may not be meaningful.

Blueprints beyond borders, for solace and shelter

Shashi Tharoor

Member of Parliament (Congress), who spent 11 years (1978-89) working for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, including three and a half years as head of its Singapore office at the peak of the Vietnamese 'boat people' crisis. He is also an author and columnist who has long advocated the passage of a refugee/asylum law in India

Today, the world has over 43.4 million refugees, and with conflicts raging in different parts of the world, this number is only increasing. But as it rises, we also run the risk of treating these people as figures in a statistical compilation, and not human beings with needs, fears, hopes and wants. Yet this, precisely, is what they are. And World Refugee Day (June 20) is a sombre occasion to think of all those human beings – a ceaseless succession of families with dreams and desires, laughter and joy – whose lives have been uprooted, all those homes that have been destroyed, and all those futures that have been jeopardised. But this is also an occasion to think of safe havens granted, asylum ensured, refugees protected, and solutions found.

India is well-poised to commemorate this poignant day. History, after all, is on our side. Our record of granting asylum goes back millennia, from the Jews who fled to India centuries before Christ after the demolition of their Jerusalem Temple by the Babylonians and then the Romans, to the Zoroastrians fleeing Islamic persecution in Persia, to the East Bengalis – for the cause of whose nationhood we waged war with Pakistan in 1971, liberating what became Bangladesh – Tibetans and Sri Lankan Tamils in more recent years, alongside streams of Nepalis, Afghans and Rohingyas. As a nation that attained independence against the backdrop of one of the most horrific refugee crises in history, when 13 million to 15 million people crossed the freshly created borders between India and Pakistan, we are all too aware of the perils that befall refugees, and of the consequent need to help them rebuild their lives.

The pitch for suitable legislation

Despite our glorious history of affording solace and shelter to refugees from the world over, it is ironic that India is neither a signatory to the UN Refugee Convention (which outlines the rights of asylum seekers and refugees, alongside the obligations of host states) nor to its 1967 Protocol. Nor does our country have a domestic asylum framework. Whereas, with our history, we ought to lead the global march on the question of refugee rights, our present actions and lack of a legal framework does our heritage no credit, shames us in the eyes of the world, and fails to match up to our stellar past track record.

It was to address these gaping lacunae that I introduced, in February 2022, a Private Member's Bill in the Lok Sabha, seeking the enactment of a Refugee and Asylum law. My Bill laid down comprehensive criteria for recognising asylum seekers and refugees, and prescribed specific rights and duties accruing from such status. This legislation was proposed because of our government's failure to honour the international legal principle of non-refoulement – the cornerstone of refugee law, which states that no country should send a person to a place where they may suffer persecution – and even more, its betrayal of India's impeccable tradition of granting asylum to strangers.

> The problems of refugees demand international cooperation and India needs to live up to its image of serving 'the still larger cause of humanity'

Titled the Asylum Bill, 2021, it followed close on the heels of our government expelling to Myanmar two batches of Rohingya refugees despite the grave risk of persecution in the country they had fled. In conducting this act of "refoulement" in violation of international law, our government revealed both religious bigotry (the refugees were Muslim) and intolerance. In fact, in 2017, the Ministry of Home Affairs issued a circular classifying Rohingyas as "illegal migrants", leading to their being callously flung into detention centres across India, where they languish in deplorable conditions – unable to communicate with their families and without any access to medical facilities, food, sanitation and water supply – until they are deported. As of August 2023, over 700 Rohingyas were in detention throughout India.

The government has also been inhospitable to the Chakmas in Arunachal Pradesh and Myanmarese in Mizoram. My Bill sought to put an end to such arbitrary conduct by the authorities. It afforded to all foreigners – regardless of their nationality, race, or religion – the right to seek asylum in India. It also called for the creation of a National Commission for Asylum to review and decide all such applications. Having staunchly affirmed, with no exceptions, the principle of non-refoulement, I specified reasons for exclusion, expulsion and revocation of refugee status, thus respecting the government's sovereign authority while limiting its discretion.

In a state of suspense

In the absence of a consistent and comprehensive law to deal with asylum seekers, we lack a clear perspective on refugee management. We have a flurry of such laws as the Foreigners Act, 1946, the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939, the Passports Act (1967), the Extradition Act, 1962, the Citizenship Act, 1955 (including its ominous 2019 amendment) and the Foreigners Order, 1948, all of which club all foreign individuals together as "aliens". Because India has neither subscribed to international conventions on the topic nor set up a domestic legislative framework to deal with refugees, their problems are dealt with in an ad hoc manner, and like other foreigners, they always face the possibility of being deported. While speaking of refugee protection, we must not limit ourselves just to providing asylum. We need a rigorous mechanism to ensure that refugees can access basic public services – chief among them medical facilities and educational institutions – and legally seek jobs to get back on their feet.

We can, and must, do better. India should enact a National Asylum Law, such as the one I have presented to Parliament. We currently host more than two lakh refugees, but the Bharatiya Janata Party government's churlish attitude to the Rohingya and other "inconvenient" refugees risks putting us in the global doghouse. Had it been enacted, my Bill would have placed India at the forefront of asylum management in the world. It would have vindicated our steadfast and immemorial commitment to humanitarian and democratic values while dealing with refugees.

Taking up the judiciary's baton

In 1996, the Supreme Court of India held that not just Indians but everybody living in India, irrespective of nationality, enjoys the inviolable rights guaranteed by Articles 14, 20 and 21 of the Constitution of India. On these grounds, the apex court, in the landmark case of *National Human Rights Commission vs State Of Arunachal Pradesh & Anr.*, stopped the forcible eviction of Chakma refugees who had entered Arunachal Pradesh in 1995. The Court held that an application for asylum must be properly processed, and till a decision is made whether to grant or refuse asylum, the state cannot forcibly evict an asylum seeker. Our judiciary, therefore, has already pointed us towards the golden path: now we must scrupulously tread it. Yet, at times, different judges have taken radically different approaches, which we saw aplenty in the Rohingya case. The enactment and enumeration of refugee rights will reduce our reliance on judge-centric approaches – or, even worse, the whims of Home Ministry bureaucrats, police officers and politicians.

The problems of refugees worldwide are problems that demand international cooperation. India, as a pillar of the world community and as a significant pole in the emerging multipolar world, must play its own part – on its own soil as well as on the global stage – in this noble task, devising solutions for refugees that offer blueprints beyond borders. In so doing, we would uphold our own finest traditions and the highest standards of our democracy, alongside demonstrating that we truly are what we have forever claimed to be: a *vishwaguru*, striving inexorably to serve, in the words of Jawaharlal Nehru, "the still larger cause of humanity". This is a worthwhile aspiration for all of us who care about what India stands for, both at home and in the world.

A story of displacement to one of empowerment

S.C. Chandrahasan

the founder of the Organization for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR), and an attorney at law in Sri Lanka

The Sri Lankan Tamils who arrived on the shores of Tamil Nadu, India, for the first time in 1983 had lost everything. Their only objective was to save their lives from the hate-filled ethnocentric violence which caused their displacement. Most vulnerable Sri Lankan Tamils chose India due to its proximity, accessibility and linguistic commonality of Tamil. Though aware of all the hardships, they were sure of leading a threat-free life in Tamil Nadu.

Since 1983, 3,34,797 Sri Lankan Tamils have sought refuge in Tamil Nadu. They came in four phases that coincided with the escalation of conflict in Sri Lanka since 1983: 1,34,054 from 1983-87; 1,22,000 from 1989-90; 54,188 from 1995-2002, and 24,556 from 2005-24. Currently, as of January 1, 2024, there are 57,975 refugees living in 105 government-run camps in Tamil Nadu and an estimated 40,000 Sri Lankan Tamils living outside the camps in Tamil Nadu with police registration (data compiled by the Organization for Eelam Refugees Rehabilitation (OfERR) from sources such as the Commissionerate of Rehabilitation, the UNHCR and the OfERR database).

New beginnings

The lifestyle of these populations underwent a drastic change – from one of an individual family living with basic facilities in hand to that of a sharing of basic facilities. They had to get attuned to a new life – of living in isolated camps in different locations and also from their own home set up to life in huts. Often, these looked like temporary sheds or a common building and entailed the use of public toilets, common water resources for daily usage and dealing with limited potable water.

Every person in the camp is registered. And every person receives a monthly dole after a bimonthly roll call that ensures the presence of the person in the camp. In addition to the cash dole, there are several benefits such as free housing, electricity, water and monthly food rations. They also have access to all the welfare schemes available to the people of Tamil Nadu including the latest women's rights scheme of ₹1,000 per month. In terms of education, the refugees have access to government schools, and receive the additional benefit of ₹1,000 a month if they progress to higher education. There are also specific one-time education support programmes that are available to refugees – arts and science college students get ₹12,000 and students of engineering courses get ₹50,000. Most recently, the Government of Tamil Nadu has handed over brand new homes to about 5,000 Sri Lankan Tamils. A costing study that was completed in end-2023 documented that the government spent about ₹262 crore on refugees (₹170 crore directly and ₹92 crore indirectly) annually.

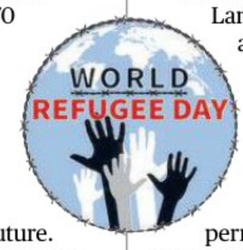
> India's, and in turn Tamil Nadu's, refugee-care model for the Sri Lankan Tamils is one to be emulated

Bringing back dignity

The welfare schemes form a large part of the protection of the Sri Lankan Tamils to restore their dignity and empower them to build a sustainable future. This has resulted in 100% enrolment in schools and over 4,500 graduates from the camps. They have been able to break free of their caste barriers as they fall under the Refugee category. This has ended up in people not knowing their caste is treated as no longer necessary.

The treatment of the Sri Lankan refugee manifests a clear concern of every arm of the state especially in the context of India not being a signatory to the Refugee Convention of 1951 and in the absence of domestic laws to govern refugees. In a positive turn, the government of Tamil Nadu went ahead and issued a government order (764) dated October 28, 2021 renaming the refugee camps as Sri Lankan Tamil Rehabilitation Camps. This is a clear step in destigmatising the refugee population of the refugee tag. Henceforth, Sri Lankan refugees are addressed as Displaced Tamil, from Sri Lankan Tamils in India. This is not merely a shift in nomenclature but a firm stand on restoring the dignity of the population.

Having lived in India for over two generations, the refugees have constantly empowered themselves with experience and education. This has happened as a result of advocacy by OfERR and other well-wishers, donors and political parties that has facilitated the patronage extended by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of India. The refugees are now seeking a durable solution to their current situation.



Since the end of the war in Sri Lanka in 2009, a total of 16,641 refugees have returned to Sri Lanka according to the OfERR database and the UNHCR. While the momentum to return was picking up at a steady pace, the COVID-19 pandemic, and thereafter the economic crisis in Sri Lanka, paused and later slowed down the process.

Currently, Indian laws are unable to permit local integration by granting citizenship to the refugees from Sri Lanka. The option of third country resettlement also remains very slim. Also, other international crises have taken priority. Given this context, Sri Lankan Tamils continue to live in uncertainty about their future, dealing with day-to-day challenges.

The story of the Sri Lankan refugee living in the welfare centres of Tamil Nadu is one of a refugee-care model that is to be emulated. The concern of the Government of Tamil Nadu and the Government of India towards the Sri Lankan Tamils living in the welfare centres has resulted in a transformation – of hapless refugees turning into resource persons who could potentially contribute to the rebuilding of the nation when they return. They will also form the most important skilled human resource that is ready to take up any challenge as it arises.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ending discrimination

The Justice K. Chandru Committee has made its recommendations ("Students must not be allowed to sport wearables indicating caste, says panel", June 19). So be it. But one feels that it is parents who are expected to be role models to their children in this matter, as 'home' is the first informal school for students. Be that as it may, schools and the government can enforce rules to end caste discrimination, but the refinement of minds should come from within. Needless to say, teachers should saturate their classes/lectures with anecdotes emphasising values such as patience, a broad outlook, industriousness and compassion.

S. Ramakrishnasayee,
Chennai

NEET candidates

I write this letter as a former Professor and Director, Entrance Exams and Admissions, Anna University, Chennai. In the context of the National Testing Agency cancelling the 'grace marks' awarded to over 1,500 candidates who had appeared for the recent NEET (UG) and announcing an optional retest, I have the following comment to make. As per the announcement of cancellation of grace marks, also approved by the top court of the land, for those candidates who opt for the retest, the original test marks (without grâce marks) will be discarded/dropped. I feel this spells injustice for many students. They can, instead, be allowed to choose between the marks scored in the May 5 exam (without grace marks) and in the retest. This will also help those who opted for the retest, but could not take it for some genuine reason.

P.V. Navaneethakrishnan,
Chennai

Railway safety

The train accident in Darjeeling district has raised concerns about the slow implementation of the 'Kavach' anti-collision system. There is an immediate need to sensitise loco running staff and other staff concerned with train operations regarding the standard procedures for operating trains under abnormal conditions. With the general election over, the next six months should be focused exclusively on all aspects of rail safety.

K. Balakesari,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Invisible suffering of Rohingya refugees

Priyali Sur
Founder and executive director of The Azadi Project

At a recent group psychosocial support session for Rohingya women refugees in Delhi, women burst into laughter when the therapist asked about feeling anxious at night. "I wake up paralysed on many nights. My hands and legs numb thinking there is a fire in our camp again." Rozina laughed, acting out her paralysis. Another added, "everytime there is a loud sound we run out half naked, without our burqas, fearing another fire. There is no time to cover". All 20 women in the room were laughing with tears in their eyes.

Psychotherapists say that laughter can be a defense mechanism that protects trauma survivors from feeling the depth of their actual pain. According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) data from December 2023, more than 22,000 Rohingya refugees live in India.

Most of them fled Myanmar between 2012 and 2017 when the Myanmar military started the "clearance operation," killing Rohingya people, raping women, and destroying their villages in Rakhine state. "I fled from Myanmar when I was 16 years old. I remember everything along the route; murdered and beheaded bodies lying', says Momina, a 24-year-old mother of two. Living in shanty-like huts in Delhi, she and others here have witnessed fires burning down their huts. These fires are accidental sometimes, but at other times, they are started by members of nationalist extremist groups, who have claimed responsibility for them on social media.

The repeated fires in the refugee settlement in Delhi trigger and re-traumatise Momina. "I get so scared when a fire starts or even when there are loud noises, that I pass out."

She has been diagnosed with severe depression and dissociative identity disorder, a mental health condition where the patient can have two or more separate identities. Momina manifests at least three to four different identities, all connected to her extremely traumatic past. Sometimes she becomes a four-year-old child whose mother was killed by the junta army in Myanmar, a child Momina then took under her wing. At other times she takes on the identity of a teenage Rohingya boy who is angry and violent.

Momina isn't alone in reporting acute mental health illness. At a women's center run by my organisation, The Azadi Project and supported by Mariwala Health Initiative, many women have reported fainting incidents after bouts of anxiety, dissociative episodes, and self-harm. The organisation works only with women, but many men are also dealing with acute mental health illnesses.

While their trauma dates back to the genocide in Myanmar, the discriminatory conditions they face in India, where they are officially labeled as "illegal immigrants", and denied full access to education, basic health, legal services and formal livelihood opportunities, make matters worse. The growing anti-Muslim, anti-refugee xenophobia pushed them further to live in shadows and absolute fear.

The fear of arbitrary detention and deportation, despite most Rohingya having UNHCR cards recognising them as refugees, adds to their debilitating anxiety and fear. Based on interviews with Rohingya families and lawyers, there are at least 500 Rohingya detainees, including women and children, languishing in detention centers across India. In many cases, these people have been behind bars for decades, held illegally with no criminal charges against them. A walk through any Rohingya settlement in India will reveal that in every other family, there are either people currently detained or those who have spent considerable time in detention. Momina's own sister-in-law, Amira, was also in detention for nearly three years after being randomly locked up during the pandemic. She was released only after she became paralysed and very sick. Amira, like most other Rohingya refugees, didn't have a place to process her trauma and heal. An introvert who barely stepped outside, limiting herself to housework, Amira became further withdrawn after her years in detention.

Both Amira and Momina are now receiving mental health support but this support is just a drop given the pressing need for this population.

Civil society organisations in India that work for Rohingya refugees are starved for funding as most FCRA licences that permit receiving foreign funding have been cancelled. In the last few years, many programs that support Rohingya refugees have either shut down or been reduced to a bare minimum. Only a few UNHCR-supported organisations continue to work in this space but they do so cautiously and not at full capacity.

While there has been considerable attention to the plight of close to a million Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, there needs to be international attention to the escalating mental health epidemic of Rohingya refugees in India. We need an urgent multi-pronged approach. First, we must address and mitigate the core causes of re-traumatisation, providing the Rohingya people a life with more dignity, agency and official identity in India. Second, we must enable access to primary and tertiary healthcare facilities for everyone who holds a UNHCR card, and third, we must support grassroots organisations to build safe spaces where the Rohingya refugees can access support without fear and start their healing journeys.

There needs to be international attention to the escalating mental health epidemic of Rohingya refugees in India

Decades of uncertainty for Tibetans

There are several concerns among young Tibetans about their future

Vijaita Singh
vijaita.singh@thehindu.co.in

Neither foreigners nor refugees. More than 60 years after Tibetans arrived in India in the face of Chinese occupation, their status is in a quandary.

In 1959, thousands of Tibetans arrived in India in the wake of the flight of the Dalai Lama. The government provided asylum and assistance towards temporary settlement. While they are third-generation settlers now, the future of the Tibetan movement, India's citizenship laws and India not being part of the 1951 United Nations Convention on Refugees complicate the issue.

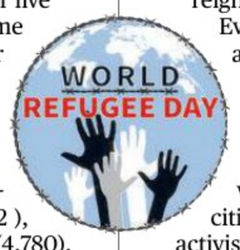
To live in India, they must obtain registration certificates (RCs) applicable to other foreigners under the Foreigners Registration Act, 1946 and the Registration of Foreigners Rule. For travelling abroad and entering from Nepal, another set of documents – Identity Certificate (IC) and Special Entry Permits (SEP) – are required.

In 2016, the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) changed the norms, making the RC renewal process online and relaxing the period of renewal to five years.

Officials and Tibetan activists point out that in the past two decades, there has been a record migration of Tibetans to foreign countries. According to "The Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy" formulated by the MHA, the Tibetan population in India stood at 1.10 lakh in 2009.

According to MHA's 2022-23 Annual Report, "per the latest Census 2019 conducted by Central Tibetan Relief Committee (CTRC), the population of Tibetan refugees in India was 73,404." The Union government formulated the policy in consultation with The Dalai Lama's CTRC. There was a need to revise the policy in the wake of problems faced by the community.

In 2015, the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government sanctioned a scheme of providing a grant-in-aid of ₹40 crore to the CTRC for five years. The scheme was extended for another five years.



A major concentration of Tibetan refugees is in Karnataka (21,324), Himachal Pradesh (14,952), Arunachal Pradesh (4,780), Uttarakhand (4,829), West Bengal (3,076), and Ladakh (6,989), the MHA report said.

"There is a creeping sense of uncertainty about their future among young Tibetans. Inevitably concerns are about what will happen to them when HHDL is no more as all hopes are centered around him. As a result of migration of Tibetans for a variety of reasons, especially young Tibetans from India, the community has shrunk in numbers. Since the last elections, the Tibetan Parliament (in-exile), could have shown greater sense of unity, and these divisions add to people's concerns", said Amitabh Mathur, former adviser to the MHA on Tibetan affairs. Despite several initiatives, a few problems remain unrectified. He added that processes governing acquiring a document to travel abroad remain slow.

Tibetan Legal Association (TLA) says on its website that since 2013, the ICs could be applied online.

"In the last few years, the process for obtaining ICs has become far more difficult, with delays of two years increasingly common place and some taking as long as three years to be processed. Such significant delays of between one and three years in being granted ICs, inevitably cause severe difficulties for Tibetans trying to plan international trips for school or other purposes and opportunities," TLA said.

"We are recognised as foreigners living in India. Everything is temporary, we cannot buy properties. We have lost half of our population to foreign countries where they acquire citizenship," Tibetan activist and poet Tenzin Tsundue said. "Indian citizenship comes with a caveat, the government says we will have to give up the benefits and our rights to visit the settlements camps. Many will not be able to visit their parents who live in camps without permits issued by the government agencies," he said.

While the Citizenship Act, 1955 states that those born in India between January 26, 1950 and on or before July 1, 1987, are citizens by birth, there are few Tibetans who acquired Indian citizenship after moving court. After a series of court judgments, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in 2018 issued comprehensive guidelines to issue passports to Tibetan refugees, subject to police verification.

Mr. Tsundue added that no textbooks teach about the Tibetan movement. "While we owe gratitude to the government, there is little awareness, that India has recognised Tibet as part of China. There was some buzz about the cause after the 2020 Galwan border clash but that is not enough. (Prime Minister Narendra) Modi*ji* has not even met the Dalai Lama," the Tibetan activist said.

Diseases with higher burden in Asia and Africa lack research funding

These neglected tropical diseases typically affect populations in the poorest parts of the world

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Close to 677 million people in India required treatment against tropical diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, and snakebite envenoming in 2021, yet global research about these ailments continues to be heavily underfunded compared to illnesses such as HIV/AIDS. These diseases are termed as Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) by the World Health Organization (WHO).

NTDs primarily affect populations in tropical and subtropical regions, and they have historically received less attention and fewer resources. The affected populations are typically among the poorest in the world. These diseases contribute to a cycle of poverty, as they cause long-term disability, social stigma, and economic burden, which in turn hinders economic development and attracts less commercial investment in treatments and research. They also lead to other health problems such as anemia, blindness, chronic pain, infertility and disfigurement.

Research and development for NTDs have been historically underfunded compared to diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria as shown in **Chart 1**. It shows the annual research and development funding for NTDs in 2022 ($, adjusted for inflation). The COVID-19 pandemic received a total research funding of $4.22 billion in 2022. HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria received funding in the range of $600 million to $1.35 billion that year. Whereas, diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, leprosy and snakebite envenoming received funding in the range of $10 million to $80 million.

Map 2 shows the estimated number of people requiring treatment against NTDs in 2021. With 677 million people requiring treatments, India tops the charts followed by Nigeria with 139 million, Indonesia with 79 million, Ethiopia with 71 million and Bangladesh with 56 million. Congo, Philippines, Tanzania, Uganda and Pakistan are the other nations in the top ten list. The geographic spread clearly shows that most of the disease burden in the case of NTDs is shouldered by countries in Asia and Africa. Mexico is the only non-Asian, non-African country with a higher share of burden featuring high (14th) on the list. Deaths due to NTDs in Europe, Oceania and North America (except Mexico) are few and far between.

India tops the charts in terms of dengue deaths with 17,500 such fatalities recorded in 2019. India also tops the charts in leprosy cases with over one lakh cases in 2022. With over 50,000 deaths due to venomous snakes in 2019, the mortality in India is much higher than the distant second – Pakistan (2,000 fatalities).

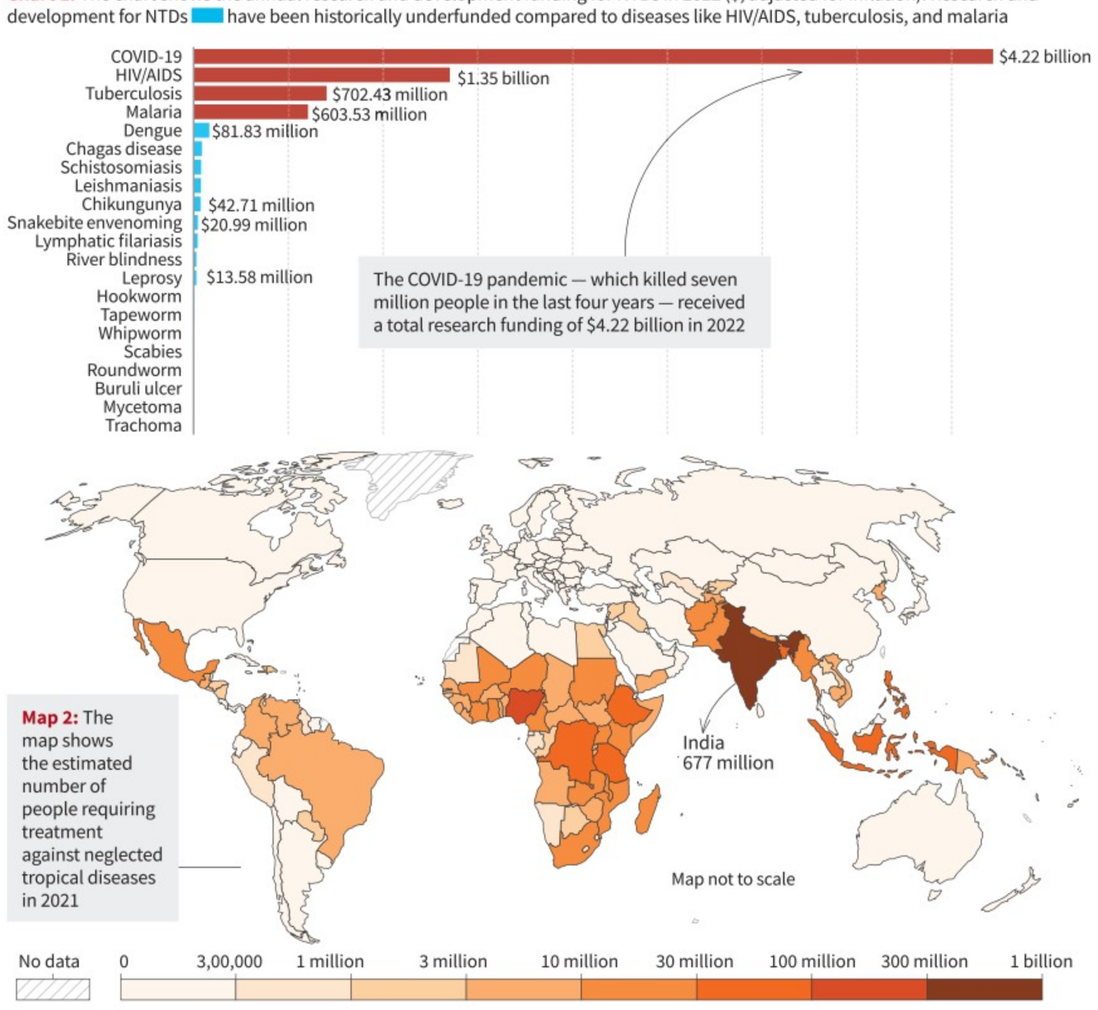
Chart 3 shows the technologies on which the global research and development funding for infectious diseases was spent. Most of the global research funding was focussed on finding vaccines to counter COVID-19. A sharp increase in vaccine funding to the tune of $5.2 billion was recorded in 2020. In 2022, research funding dropped across all technologies including vaccines. Research money for new drugs, basic research, biologicals and diagnostic platforms declined in 2022.

A lot can be done to alleviate the health burden caused by NTDs. Many can be managed with inexpensive existing interventions or new technologies developed through research. However, these diseases still suffer from a lack of adequate funding, research and development, and global attention. The success of certain initiatives demonstrates what can be achieved with deliberate effort. Examples include the near-eradication of Guinea worm disease and the elimination of river blindness, lymphatic filariasis, and trachoma in many countries.

Paucity of funds

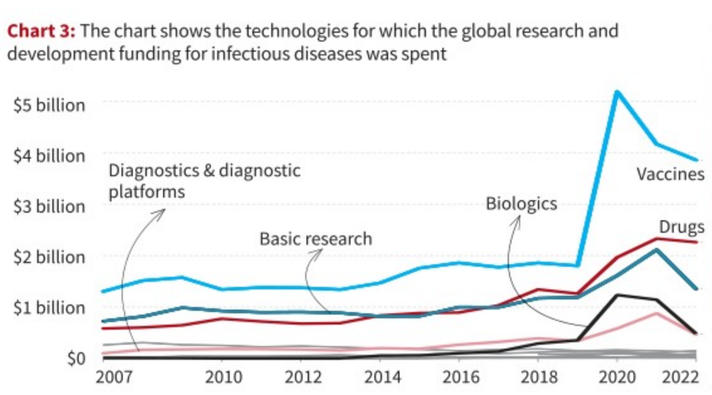
Saloni Dattani, Fiona Spooner and Max Roser (2024) - "Neglected Tropical Diseases", published in Our World in Data

Chart 1: The chart shows the annual research and development funding for NTDs in 2022 ($, adjusted for inflation). Research and development for NTDs have been historically underfunded compared to diseases like HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria



Map 2: The map shows the estimated number of people requiring treatment against neglected tropical diseases in 2021

Chart 3: The chart shows the technologies for which the global research and development funding for infectious diseases was spent



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 20, 1974

Cess on tickets 'will help film industry'

Madras, June 19: The Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Mr. I. K. Gujral, said here today that the Centre expected to raise about Rs. 8 to 10 crores by the proposed cess of five paise in cinema tickets and the amount would be ploughed back to help the film industry get "healthy finance". Mr. Gujral hoped that at the next meeting of Information Ministers, a decision would be reached on evolving a uniform pattern of entertainment tax.

Mr. Gujral said the Government was formulating a policy to make more colour film available for regional pictures. He hoped that with the formation of the National Film Corporation in a couple of months, the funds of the Film Finance Corporation would be augmented. When the Film Council was formed, the industry could have a say on how best to utilise the cess fund.

Mr. Gujral regretted that Kodak was not cooperating with Government both in the matter of Indianisation and supply of Jumbo colour rolls to HPF. He hoped that the film would "listen even at this stage." But if it felt that the Indian market was of no consequence to it, the country's national policy and pride could not wait for its decision. Imports from that company might have to be stopped and the film industry would have to make do with what was available. The Minister said that a Bill to regulate the working conditions of employees of the film industry would be introduced soon in Parliament.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 20, 1924

Indian Municipalities.

London, June 18: In the Commons, Sir Charles Yate asked what steps the Government of India was taking to improve the efficiency of Indian municipalities, especially those of Bengal and the United Provinces.

Mr. Richards replied that local self-government being a transferred provincial subject, it was not open to the Government of India to intervene in its administration. The efficiency of municipalities in any particular province was the responsibility of the Minister in charge of Local self-government in that province and through him of the Provincial Legislative Council.

From Page One

Hold talks with Dalai Lama: U.S. lawmakers

The visit by the U.S. delegation comes days before the 89th birthday of the 14th Dalai Lama, at a time of speculation about the future of the institution of the Dalai Lama, which has held the Tibetan diaspora together since the late 1950s.

"Decades later, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) continues to threaten the freedom of the Tibetan people. They have even attempted to insert themselves into the succession of the Dalai Lama. We will not let that happen," said Mr. McCaul, directly addressing the issue of the reincarnation of the Dalai Lama.

Mr. McCaul, the U.S. Representative from Texas, also had an hour-long interaction with the Dalai Lama, lauding his commitment to non-violent methods to advance the cause of Tibetans.

The text of the Resolve Tibet Act, which has been passed by both Houses of the U.S. Congress, has several references to 'self-determination' in the context of the future of the Tibetan people, and this was reflected in the statements of the visiting delegates. "This Bill makes it clear that the U.S. believes that Tibet has its own unique language, religion, and culture. It has a right to self-determination," said Mr. McCaul.

Mr. Meeks also criticised the Chinese position on Tibet and described China's claims to the region as "propaganda".

Govt. cancels UGC-NET; orders CBI investigation

It added, "The Ministry of Education has decided that the UGC-NET June 2024 Examination be cancelled on the basis of inputs from Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, *prima facie* indicating that the integrity of the examination may have been compromised." It further stated that a fresh examination should be conducted, for which details would be shared later. "Matter being handed over to CBI for thorough investigation," added the Ministry.

Students in the capital, including those belonging to the Jawaharlal Nehru University student union, said they would protest in front of the Ministry on Thursday, demanding the resignation of the Education Minister and the UGC Chairperson, along with the scrapping of the NTA and the NEET.

Cabinet clears MSP hike for 14 kharif crops

They are bajra (77%), followed by arhar dal (59%), maize (54%), and black gram (52%).

Paddy, the season's key crop, will see an MSP increase of ₹117 per quintal, which will allow farmers a margin of exactly 50%. The hike comes despite the fact that the government already holds a record stockpile of rice, more than four times the required buffer, but is significant ahead of the upcoming elections in key States. Kharif sowing usually begins in June with the onset of the southwest monsoon, while the crop marketing season will run from October 2024 to September 2025.

This year's MSP hike is likely to result in a total financial implication of ₹2 lakh crore, about ₹35,000 crore higher than the previous season, Mr. Vaishnaw said, adding that this would boost farmers' incomes.

The highest absolute increase over the previous year has been recommended for oilseeds and pulses, with the MSP for nigerseed rising ₹983 per quintal, followed by sesamum, which saw an increase of ₹632 per quintal, and arhar dal, a staple pulse, which saw its MSP rise ₹550 per quintal. *(With PTI inputs)*

Row over visit of Australian deputy envoy to Bengal

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Australian Deputy High Commissioner Nicholas McCaffrey was conveyed a "no objection" to meet officials in the West Bengal government at an "appropriate" level, official sources said on Wednesday after the Trinamool Congress accused the Centre of rejecting his request to meet three Ministers in the Mamata Banerjee government.

"A no objection was conveyed to the Australian Deputy High Commissioner based on the principle of reciprocity for meeting officials of the West Bengal government at an appropriate level," a source said.

The clarification came after Trinamool Congress MPs Saket Gokhale and Sagarika Ghose accused the NDA government of not allowing the Australian deputy envoy to meet the Ministers in the West Bengal government. They also alleged that the Centre was creating hindrance in West Bengal getting foreign investment.

Mr. McCaffrey sought the meetings ahead of his planned visit to West Bengal.

Manipur conflict a 'law and order problem', says Oram

This is the first time a Union Tribal Affairs Minister has spoken about the conflict; he says the situation is being handled by the Home Ministry, in coordination with State govt. and Governor

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram said on Wednesday that the ethnic conflict raging in Manipur for more than a year now was a "law and order situation" that is being dealt with by the Union Home Ministry.

This is the first time a Union Tribal Affairs Minister has spoken about the conflict between the valley-based Meitei people and the hills-based Scheduled Tribe Kuki-Zo that has killed over 220 people, injured thousands and internally displaced thousands in the northeastern State.

In an exclusive interaction with *The Hindu*, Mr. Oram, who took charge of the Tribal Affairs Ministry last week, said that whenever a conflict of such nature occurred, it was only natural for everyone to look for solutions.

"This problem is actually one of the Home Ministry. Law and order situation is a State subject. In this, you are asking about this only because one of the parties involved is a tribal community... Who will not want a solution? But this is being handled by the Home Ministry, in coordination with the State government and the Governor there," Mr. Oram said, adding that it would not be prudent to comment on the issue any further without delving into the specifics.

Jual Oram

'Bridge ethnic divide'

Earlier this week, in the latest security review meeting he chaired on Manipur, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the Home Ministry would engage with both the communities to "bridge the ethnic divide" between them.

The ethnic conflict in Manipur recently flared up after a spate of violence escalated tensions in Jiribam. After the body of a Meitei farmer was found by the local people, arson and an abduction were reported, with more than 1,000 people – Meitei, Kuki-Zo and Hmar – being evacuated from villages.

Mr. Oram, who was the country's first Tribal Affairs Minister after the Ministry was created in 1999, also held the portfolio between 2014 and 2019 in the first Narendra Modi-led Union Cabinet.

The conflict in Manipur began on May 3, 2023, after a State-wide protest march was held by all tribal communities, including Naga tribes, of the State against an order of the Manipur High Court that directed the State government to consider the inclusion of the Meitei community on the Scheduled Tribes list.

While that has been termed the immediate trigger, as the violence continued and the conflict raged on, decades-long differences between the communities emerged, leading to a deeper ethnic divide between the two.

Ever since the conflict began, erstwhile Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda had maintained a silence, refusing to answer questions on the issue.

Biren meets officials who attended meet in Delhi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Two days after Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a meeting to review the security situation in Manipur, top officials who attended the meeting met Mr. Singh and briefed him about the measures being taken to restore peace in the strife-torn State.

Panels set to probe Cong. poll debacle in key States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday formed fact-finding committees to look into the "poor performance" in some specific States, including the Congress-ruled ones, in the recently concluded Lok Sabha polls.

The announcement was made by general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal in a statement.

The panel for Madhya Pradesh includes Prithviraj Chavan, Saptagiri Ulaka and Jignesh Mevani. For Chhattisgarh, M. Veerappa Moily and Harish Chaudhary would be the fact-finding team. In Odisha, senior leaders Ajay Maken and Tariq Anwar would look into the reasons for the party's performance. The team of P.L. Punia and Rajani Patel would be looking at the party's abysmal performance in Delhi, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

During the Congress Working Committee meeting, Mr. Kharge had announced that he would form committees to examine why the party performed poorly in some States.

'Both trains were on same track, gateman had informed station'

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

The inquiry by the Commissioner of Railway Safety (CRS) into the June 17 accident involving Kanchanjunga Express and a goods train began on Wednesday with 10 persons, including the loco pilot and assistant loco pilot of the express train, recording their statements.

Surendra Kumar, Divisional Railway Manager of the Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway, said the statements of gatemen, pointsmen and porters of the Rangapani station were also recorded. The inquiry has found that a gateman had informed the Rangapani railway station about a goods train running on the same track on which Kanchanjunga Express had left a little while ago.

Mr. Kumar said the CRS was investigating if the information was received by officials at the station.

The accident took place between the Rangapani and Chatterhat stations at 8.55 a.m. in West Bengal's Darjeeling district.

Manual memos issued

Mr. Kumar said the automated signalling system between the stations was not working in the morning of the incident. He said the system was introduced in the region a year ago.

Instead, manual memos were issued by the stationmaster of the Rangpani station to both the trains – 15 minutes apart between 8.20 a.m. (express train) and 8.35 a.m. (goods train) – permitting them to cross the red signal.

The inquiry, being conducted by Chief Commissioner of Railway Safety Janak Kumar Garg, is likely to continue for the next few days and statements of the railway personnel and the eyewitnesses will be recorded.

Railways to fill 18,799 vacancies for assistant loco pilots in 16 zones

S. Vijay Kumar
CHENNAI

Amid an increasing number of major train accidents and pressure from trade unions to fill vacancies in the safety categories, the Railway Ministry has notified recruitment for 18,799 posts of assistant loco pilots in 16 zones across the country.

According to Railways sources, the number of vacancies notified for the recruitment in January was 5,696. However, a revised order was issued on Tuesday, increasing the number of posts to 18,799, much to the relief of loco pilots who have been demanding that the huge number of vacancies be filled.

Too few hands: The increasing number of major train accidents have led to pressure from trade unions to fill vacancies. FILE PHOTO

Crew overburdened

Soon after the Railways notified recruitment to 5,696 posts of assistant loco pilots in January, the All India Loco Running Staff Association (AILRSA) made representations to the Railway management expressing concern that the crew was being overburdened owing to a shortage of staff and forced to work more than 12 to 20 hours at a stretch which was detrimental to train operations.

The Railway Board, in a communication, asked all Zonal Railways to take immediate action for processing the indent of enhanced vacancies in consultation with the Railway Recruitment Board.

The large-scale recruitment to fill vacant posts of loco pilots comes against the backdrop of recent train accidents resulting in deaths or grievous injuries to passengers and also a surge in the number of Signal Passed at Danger (SPAD) incidents.

Even in the case of rear-end collision of a goods train with the Kanchanjunga Express in the Katihar Division of Northeast Frontier Railway in West Bengal on Monday, the Railway Board first said that the loco pilots (of the goods train) had "disregarded" the signal. Later, it was claimed that they did not follow the prescribed speed limits. In another case, loco pilots of a goods train that met with an accident in the Adra Division of South Eastern Railway on June 25, 2023, were removed from service after a probe revealed that they went into "micro sleep", resulting in the train passing the signal in danger.

Pointing out that continuous duties or long working hours led to mental stress and fatigue, the AILRSA members have also been demanding adequate rest as per rules. Alleging that the Railways, without filling up vacancies, was deploying available manpower to continuous work in the name of optimum utilisation, they demanded 16 hours of mandatory rest on return to headquarters from a trip along with 30 hours of periodical rest once a week.

India, U.S. working to scale up partnership on critical minerals

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

India and the U.S. are looking to "quickly" conclude a bilateral agreement on furthering cooperation on critical minerals between the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Ministry of Mines, and to drive a partnership in supply chains for graphite, gallium, and germanium.

One of the aims will be to promote "India's vital role in the mineral security partnership, including through co-investing in a lithium resource project in South America and a rare earths deposit in Africa, to responsibly and sustainably diversify critical mineral supply chains," said a fact sheet issued on June 17 on the India-U.S. Initiative for Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) dialogue, chaired by the National Security Advisers of the countries.

In July 2023, India released a list of 30 minerals critical for the country.

In July 2023, India released a list of 30 minerals critical for the country and has been looking to acquire mines abroad in addition to expanding exploration within the country. To enable this, the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 was amended through the MMDR Amendment Act, 2023.

India has incorporated a joint venture company Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL) with equity contribution from three Central Public Sector Enterprises – National Aluminium Company Ltd, Hindustan Copper Ltd and Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Ltd – with the objective of acquiring critical mineral assets abroad to ensure consistent supply of critical minerals to the Indian domestic market. KABIL is presently exploring opportunities for acquisition of critical minerals assets like lithium and cobalt in Australia, Argentina and Chile.

Official data: more frequent surveys and quicker results are on the cards

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The Centre is eyeing an increase in the frequency of some critical official surveys, including the periodic survey to measure employment, and releasing their results faster to facilitate timely and informed policy decisions, a top Statistics Ministry official said on Wednesday.

Speaking at a data user conference on the recently released findings of the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES), 2022-23, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation Secretary Saurabh Garg said data would be the basis of making "much more informed" decisions needed to attain the common purpose of making India a developed country by 2047.

> For any decision-maker, the availability of data at the right time is critical for making more informed decisions
>
> **SAURABH GARG**
> Secretary, Statistics and Programme Implementation Ministry

Having replaced traditional pen and paper surveys conducted by enumerators on the field, with Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) tablets that were used in the HCES, for instance, India's statistical officers can now directly upload the data from the field so that time delays that happen between the survey and the availability of results is decreased, Mr. Garg said.

"The use of technology is something we will continue to focus on as we move ahead, and the purpose is to ensure that we can reduce the time period between surveys. For example, we have the HCES and the PLFS [Periodic Labour Force Survey]... many of these surveys that are annual, we are looking at which of them can be made quarterly, and some of them could be made monthly," Mr. Garg said.

"For any decision-maker, the availability of data at the right time is critical for making more informed decisions," he underlined. The Ministry is also seeking to foster collaboration and interaction with other Ministries and departments, with a view to ensure that statistics generated across government can "talk to each other" and be tapped easily by departments based on their needs.

The official statistics machinery is also striving to ensure compliance with global data standards, such as the UN system of national accounts or the special data dissemination standards of the International Monetary Fund.

Annurag Batra elected to global TV academy

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Annurag Batra, founder of exchange4media and Chairman of BW Businessworld, has been elected a member of the International Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. He joins a group of over 900 members from about 60 countries, representing the world's leading television and media firms.

He set up and institutionalised exchange4media, creating a new platform for media, television and related domains in digital, a release said. He acquired BW Businessworld group nine years ago and has developed it to become a 360-degree media platform, it added.

BJP facing multiple challenges ahead of Maharashtra polls

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

BJP president J.P. Nadda chaired the Maharashtra BJP core committee meeting.

At a review here on Tuesday of the BJP's dismal performance in Maharashtra in the Lok Sabha election, the top brass of the national and State party units had few answers to share, despite the Assembly election being just a few months away.

Sources present at the meeting said seat-wise details, especially of losses in Vidarbha, Marathwada and Mumbai-Konkan, were gone into and micro-data exchanged, but there are fundamentally three big narrative conundrums that bedevil the party in that State.

OBC vote

Manoj Jarange Patil's agitation for Maratha reservation and the way Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, himself a Maratha, dealt with it, have prompted a backlash among the OBC community, a dangerous sign for the BJP. Since the 1980s, the BJP has been steadily working on the OBC vote through the Mali, Dhangar and Vanjari communities, or the "MaDhaV" combination.

The grant of Maratha reservation, specifically granting OBC Kunbi certificates to Marathas, the violence that the agitation engendered in Marathwada and a perceived lack of voice for the OBCs despite the BJP's dominant role in the *Mahayuti* government in the State led to the OBCs feeling upset with the BJP. In Marathwada, where Mr. Jarange Patil's agitation was particularly strong, the BJP lost all four seats it contested in that region. The party lost such previously "safe" seats as Jalna and Beed.

While losses in Vidarbha were attributed to the perception that the BJP would end reservation if voted back to power, it is the OBC backlash which is being blamed for its losses in Marathwada.

The BJP's statement on Wednesday that there was no discussion on who would be the *Mahayuti*'s chief ministerial candidate going into the Assembly polls is a pointer that it is anxious about its traditional vote bank slipping away.

The Lok Sabha results also raised questions over the state of the alliance.

BJP and RSS cadre, whose political work in Maharashtra till now had been defined by an anti-NCP-Congress outlook, found it difficult to campaign for the NCP faction led by Ajit Pawar. While the Shiv Sena under Mr. Shinde is still an organic alliance for the BJP on the issue of Hindutva, it is with the NCP that the party struggles on complementarity.

The Mumbai area with 36 Assembly seats is crucial in the polls. The split in the Sena and the NCP will have its own implications in the city, with the Shiv Sena (UBT) winning three Lok Sabha seats on its own out of the six in the city. The silver lining for the *Mahayuti* is that of the 12 Lok Sabha seats in the Mumbai-Konkan belt, it won seven. This has put the spotlight on the fact that the Shiv Sena (UBT) with its additional votes of minorities is a formidable opponent.

Mahayuti's CM face not decided: BJP State chief

Chandrashekhar Bawankule says the party's central leadership and allies will take a decision, though Fadnavais had said during Lok Sabha polls that Shinde will lead alliance in State election

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

No discussion has taken place about who will be the chief ministerial candidate of the ruling *Mahayuti* coalition in the Maharashtra Assembly election, the BJP's State unit chief, Chandrashekhar Bawankule, said on Wednesday.

He said the party's central leadership and alliance partners would take a decision on this, while affirming that Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis continued to be the BJP's leader in the State.

On his return to Nagpur after attending the BJP's core committee meeting in Delhi on Tuesday, Mr. Bawankule said the party leadership had discussed the reasons for the below-par performance of the coalition comprising the BJP, the Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena, and the Nationalist Congress Party, led by Ajit Pawar.

Clearing the air: Devendra Fadnavis with Chandrashekhar Bawankule during a press conference in Nagpur, in April. PTI

"We also analysed why the coalition's vote share lagged by 0.3% behind the Maha Vikas Aghadi's," he said.

Poor performance

On multiple occasions before the Lok Sabha election, Mr. Fadnavis had said that Mr. Shinde would remain the face of the alliance during the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in the State. In the Lok Sabha election, however, the BJP managed to win only nine of the 28 seats it contested. The ruling alliance as a whole secured only 17 of the 48 seats from the State, while the Opposition MVA won 30 seats, with an additional seat going to a rebel Congress candidate, Vishal Patil, from Sangli, who later extended his support to the Congress. In the 2019 Lok Sabha election, the BJP alone had won 23 seats in the western State.

Asked about the possibility of Mr. Fadnavis becoming the alliance's chief ministerial candidate, the BJP State chief said that the alliance's focus was on the development of the State, unlike the MVA, which had multiple CM aspirants. The decision about the CM face, he said, would be made by the central leadership and Bhupendra Yadav and Ashwini Vaishnaw, central leaders in charge of the State election, along with Mr. Shinde and Mr. Ajit Pawar.

The BJP will take out a *Dhanyawad Yatra* across the State to thank the voters, Mr. Bawankule added.

India to hold Kanishka memorial event as Canada mourns Nijjar

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Hardeeep Singh Nijjar

Canadian parliamentarians stood for a moment of silence to mark one year since the killing of Khalistani separatist and Canadian citizen Hardeep Singh Nijjar on Tuesday, in a sign that bilateral ties between India and Canada are likely to spiral further downwards, despite a meeting between Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Justin Trudeau in Italy last Friday.

Khalistani groups were also allowed to take out processions in different Canadian cities, where they shouted anti-India slogans over the killing, and called for a trial against Indian officials and Mr. Modi. This came a day after Mr. Trudeau had said that "keeping Canadians safe" – a reference to the Nijjar killing – was a priority in his talks with Mr. Modi.

The Ministry of External Affairs declined to comment on the Canadian Parliament's decision to commemorate the death of Nijjar, which was taken after an "agreement between representatives of all parties in the House", according to the Canadian House of Commons Speaker Greg Fergus. Nijjar was wanted on terror charges by the Indian government, which had placed him on its terror list under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. New Delhi had also requested Ottawa to extradite him to India.

Kanishka bombing

In what appeared to be a pointed response to the Canadian Parliament's actions, however, the Indian consulate in Vancouver announced on Wednesday that a memorial would be held next week to mark the anniversary of the bombing of the Air India Kanishka jet flying the Montreal-Bombay route, carried out by Khalistani separatists in 1985. The attack killed 329 people, including 268 Canadians and 24 Indians. The consulate urged the Indian diaspora to attend.

"India stands at the forefront of countering the menace of terrorism and works closely with all nations to tackle this global threat," the consulate wrote on its social media handle, asking people of Indian origin in Canada to "join the event in a show of solidarity against terrorism".

Stark contrasts

While neither New Delhi nor Ottawa commented on the two separate memorial events, the framing of the anniversaries of the Air India bombing, the single worst act of terror in Canada, and the killing of Nijjar, who was wanted on terror charges in India, highlights the stark contrast between them.

While India has raised the issue of Canada providing safe haven to Khalistani groups accused of terrorism, who are planning to conduct a "referendum" for a separate State in India, Canada has made the issue about Canadian sovereignty and rule of law, accusing India of "interfering" in Canadian affairs.

In addition, Canada has contested Indian claims that it has shared no evidence in the Nijjar case thus far.

Congress to scale up protests over NEET issue

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Stepping up its campaign against the alleged irregularities in the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET), the Congress has planned protests in all State headquarters on Friday to demand justice for the students.

In a letter, it said there was an urgent need to address the numerous complaints surrounding the results of the NEET-UG exam.

Restore statues to original sites in Parliament complex: Kharge

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has written to the Lok Sabha Speaker and the Rajya Sabha Chairman that the statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and other national leaders that were relocated to the newly inaugurated *Prerna Sthal* inside the Parliament complex should be restored to their original locations.

"Such removal of these statues arbitrarily, without any consultation, violates the basic spirit of our democracy. Needless to mention that the statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and other national leaders were situated at prominent locations after due deliberation and consideration. Each statue and its location across the Parliament House complex held immense value and significance," he said in his letter.

The Congress chief said a dedicated committee on installing portraits and statues of national leaders and MPs in the Parliament House Complex had not been reconstituted since 2019. "Hence, such decisions made without any proper discussion and deliberation with relevant stakeholders are against the rules and traditions of Parliament. Therefore, I demand that the statues of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and other national leaders who greatly contributed for the unity and integrity of our nation must be relocated to their original locations with due respect and regard," Mr. Kharge wrote.

CISF yet to get orders for Parliament security

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is yet to receive formal orders to take over the security at Parliament, officials told *The Hindu*.

In the past few months, over 2,500 CISF personnel have been deployed on the premises replacing the Delhi Police and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF). The CISF has assumed some key duties earlier assigned to the Parliament Security Service (PSS) such as issuance of pass and facilitating the entry of MPs.

The fate of officials of the PSS, which has been deployed since 1950 with special training to recognise and interact with MPs, hangs in the balance with the entry of the CISF. Several members have complained of being stopped by CISF officials while entering the premises.

On Tuesday, DMK Rajya Sabha member M.M. Abdulla wrote to Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, to complain about CISF personnel questioning him

Fate of officials of the PSS deployed since 1950 hangs in the balance with the entry of the CISF

on the "purpose" of his visit to Parliament complex.

In his letter, Mr. Abdulla said that around 2.40 p.m., when he entered the Parliament House Estate, he was stopped by the CISF personnel who asked him where he was headed inside the premises.

Mr. Abdulla said he was appalled at the behaviour of the CISF personnel and such an "unprecedented misbehaviour has never happened earlier while the PSS was in charge of security". He said MPs could enter Parliament even if they did not have any official engagements and he was answerable only to the Chairman, who is the custodian of the Rajya Sabha. The Lok Sabha Speaker is the overall security in-charge at the Parliament complex.

The CISF functions under the Union Home Ministry. After a security breach in the new Parliament building on December 13, 2023, the Home Ministry accorded in-principle approval to the CISF to survey the complex for deployment of personnel on a comprehensive pattern under the Government Building Security. Officials said on Wednesday that no written orders had been issued by the Lok Sabha Speaker's office yet for the induction of the CISF.

Retired IPS officer Yashovardhan Azad, who served as Special Director, Intelligence Bureau, said it was a wrong move to deploy the CISF in Parliament.

Nissar Ahmad, *The Hindu*'s senior photojournalist, passes away in Srinagar

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

Nissar Ahmad Bhat

Nissar Ahmad, Senior Special News Photographer of *The Hindu* who has been with the daily for the past 25 years, died in Srinagar on Wednesday.

Ahmad, 59, was admitted to Shri Maharaja Hari Singh Hospital a few days ago, but his health condition started deteriorating on Tuesday. He was surrounded by immediate family members when he breathed his last in the hospital on Wednesday noon.

Ahmad is survived by his spouse, two sons and a daughter. He joined *The Hindu* on August 1, 1998.

The last rites took place at his residence in Srinagar's Natipora area. He was buried at his ancestral graveyard in the same area. Hundreds of people joined the funeral prayers. His death was widely grieved by the journalistic fraternity of Kashmir.

Former Jammu & Kashmir Chief Minister and National Conference vice-president Omar Abdullah posted his condolence message on the social media platform X. Peoples Democratic Party president Mehbooba Mufti and Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader M.Y. Tarigami expressed condolences.

Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No.C.C.E.K.C., Keonjhar No. 01 / 2024-25
e-mail : ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com / sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No.2411, dt.18.06.2024

1. No. of the work	:- 5 number Building Works
2. Estimated cost	:- Rs.113.72 Lakhs to Rs.421.54 Lakhs.
3. Class of Contractor	:- "B" Class & "A" Class
4. Period of completion	:- 06 (Six) Calendar Months to 09 (Nine) Calendar Months
5. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:- From 11.00 Hours of 27.06.2024 to 16.00 Hours of 11.07.2024.
6. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	:- 16.00 Hours of 11.07.2024
7. Date of opening of Bid from Portal	:- 11.30 Hours on 12.07.2024
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in"
Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar.
B-29: OIPR-34033/11/0004/2425

THE HUTTI GOLD MINES COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Hutti-584115, Raichur Dist, Karnataka State, Tele: 08537-275463, 276339, Fax: (08537)275048, 275054
e-Mail: material276339@gmail.com Website: www.huttigold.karnataka.gov.in
TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 02/24-25 Dt: 20.06.2024
(Through e-Procurement Portal only)
Tenders are invited by "The Dy. General Manager (Materials)" for the procurement of following items from reputed manufacturers/authorized dealers as detailed below.

Sl. No.	Description	Approx. Value Rs. in Crore	EMD in Rs.
1	Manufacturing, testing, supply and commissioning of LPDT at Hutti Gold Mine. **HGML/2023-24/IND0124/CALL-3**	9.20	13,81,000/-
2	Manufacturing, testing, supply and commissioning of Single Boom Drill Jumbo at Hutti Gold Mine. **HGML/2023-24/IND0122/CALL-3**	3.81	5,73,000/-
3	Design, Engineering, Fabrication, Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 3 Nos of 11.00 Meter Dia X 11.5 Height Agitator Tanks in Leaching Plant. **HGML/2023-24/PM/WORK_INDENT48/CALL-2**	6.93	10,40,000/-
4	Supply of sag mill full set of liners. **HGML/2023-24/IND0155/CALL-2**	3.813	5,72,000/-
5	Design, manufacturing, testing, supply and commissioning of Single Boom Drill Jumbo. **HGML/2023-24/IND0048/CALL-3**	4.40	6,60,000/-
6	Compressive operation, maintenance and security contract (CAOMSC) for 3 Nos. of 1.5 MW and 1 No. of 2.1 MW WTGs of Suzlon make for a period of three years. **HGML/2023-24/SE0016/CALL-2**.	4.41	6,63,000/-
7	Compressive operation, maintenance and security contract for its 4.8 MW (0.6 MW X 8 Nos.) WTG of Vestas RRB make. **HGML/2023-24/SE0017/CALL-2**	2.44	3,66,000/-
8	Supply of Hopper Loader. **HGML/2024-25/IND0188**.	2.00	3,00,000/-

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Pre-Bid Meetings (Zoom): **01.07.2024 for Sl.no.1 at 10.30 A.M. Sl.no.2 at 11.00 A.M. Sl.no.3 at 11.30 A.M. Sl.no.4 at 12.00 P.M. Sl.no.5 at 12.30 P.M. Sl.no.6 & 7 at 3.00 P.M. and Sl.no.8 at 4.00 P.M. (2)** Last date for receipt of Tender: **10.07.2024 at 4.00 P.M.** (3) Opening of Technical Bid on: **13.07.2024 at 10.00 A.M.**
For further details interested bidders are advised to logon to website **https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of undersigned during working hours. For participating in the above tender bidder needs to be registered in e-procurement portal.
Sd/- General Manager (Tech)
"LEADING GOLD PRODUCER IN INDIA"

PARADIP PORT AUTHORITY
No.CE/PRD/ACCTS-54/23 /217 dtd.11.06.2024
e -TENDER CALL NOTICE
Name of the work : Cleaning of Roads and berms including disposal of debris of Zone-III location of Port prohibited area for 2024-25. Estimated Cost :Rs.1,59,40,868.90. Last Date & time of submission : 01.07.2024 upto 17:00 Hrs.
Refer our website for details: eprocure.gov.in/eprocure/app .
Executive Engineer, PRD, PPA
PPA/PR/17/2024-2025, Dt.18/06/2024

HEAVY VEHICLES FACTORY
UNIT OF ARMOURED VEHICLES NIGAM LIMITED
A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
CORRIGENDUM
SHORT ADVERTISEMENT for ENGAGEMENT OF PERSONNEL UNDER FIXED TENURE CONTRACT
(Advt. No.HVF/FTC/RECT/2024/02)
The above Tenure advertisement published in THE HINDU dated 15.06.2024, The line under the Serial No.3, should read as follows
"Junior Technician (Contract)"
No of Vacancies 259,
Consolidated Remuneration (Per Month) Rs.21,000/-
HR Division, HVF- Unit of AVNL
Chennai Email:hvf@ord.gov.in
Dated : 15/06/2024 Tele:044-26843443/26843445

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, PHED, Region-Kota
Notice Inviting Bid
Bids for water supply works are invited from interested bidders upto 02-07-2024 18:00 Hours. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in website detail are following:-

NIT. No.	Name of work	Estimated Cost	Date & time for online submission of tender
01/24-25	Operation and Maintenance of raw water pump house, clear water pump house, 11 Kv GSS, 75 MLD WTP unit (with chlorinator) at akelgarh head works kota including handling of chlorine cylinder at various points, making campus free from animals complete job. (5 Year). UBN No. PHE2425WSOB01415	Rs 348.59 Lacs	11-06-2024 from 17:00 Hrs upto 02-07-2024 (upto 18:00 Hrs)

DIPR/C/4372/2024
(Shubhanshu Dixit)
Additional Chief Engineer
PHED, Region, Kota

INBRIEF

Fire guts iconic tourist lodge in West Bengal, no injuries

A massive blaze broke out at the iconic Hollong Bungalow inside Jaldapara National Park in West Bengal's Alipurduar district on Tuesday that gutted the entire building. The State's head of Forest department Niraj Singhal said no one was injured in the fire since the national park was closed to tourists. Initial reports suggest that a short circuit could have sparked off the blaze.

ED arrests man linked to hawala syndicate

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested a person on charges of money-laundering in connection with a case involving a hawala syndicate through which funds collected from exporters and importers were being remitted overseas using bogus invoices. The accused, Manideep Mago, was produced before a special court that sent him to ED custody till June 23.

India eyes breakthrough against sickle cell

Researchers working to develop gene therapy using CRISPR-Cas9, a gene-editing tool, to fight the genetic blood disorder that has a high prevalence rate among the Scheduled Tribes; Tribal Affairs Ministry wants ground-level healthcare workers such as ASHAs trained to screen for the disease

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

India is getting closer to developing a gene therapy for sickle cell disease, a genetic blood disorder with a high prevalence rate among the Scheduled Tribes, officials of the Union Tribal Affairs Ministry said on Wednesday.

Vibhu Nayyar, Secretary, Tribal Affairs Ministry, said the government was expecting to hear "good news" by January 2025 on the laboratory tests that are being run.

M. Srinivas, Director of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), said researchers were working to develop a gene therapy using CRISPR-Cas9, a gene-editing tool.

"We want that in the next six months to one year, we will be able to go forward with using this method for treating sickle cell disease – making India one of the first countries to do so," Mr. Srinivas said.

He was speaking at the National Conclave on Generating Awareness on Sickle Cell Disease, organised by the Tribal Affairs Ministry in collaboration with the Birsa Munda Centre at the AIIMS.

Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram, addressing the opening of the conclave, lauded the efforts but said it was important to involve and coordinate with ground-level healthcare workers such as ASHAs and anganwadi workers for these plans to be implemented properly.

"They will be the ones doing the heavy lifting on the ground," Mr. Oram said.

Officials of the Tribal Affairs Ministry told *The Hindu* that the "good news" Mr. Nayyar was referring to was related to the tests that are currently being run by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB).

Tribal Affairs Ministry official says the government was expecting to hear "good news" by January 2025 on laboratory tests being run. AP

"Following this, the tests will proceed to the next phase and eventually move on to being tested on patients," a senior official said.

This comes months after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the CRISPR-Cas9 technology for a cell-based gene therapy to treat sickle cell disease in December 2023.

Making it cost-effective

Ministry officials said one of the main challenges for India was to find a way to make this therapy cost-effective. Developing a gene therapy using CRISPR has been part of India's mission to eradicate sickle cell disease by 2047.

A government dossier on the mission, which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in July 2023, said the technology had "the potential to be a single dose cure for blood disorders like sickle cell anaemia".

Part of this mission is to also conduct over seven crore screenings among vulnerable tribal populations across 17 States and Union Territories, of which three crore screenings have been achieved so far, Ministry officials said.

The CRISPR-Cas9 system consists of an enzyme that behaves like molecular scissors, which can be directed to cut a piece of DNA at a precise location. This will then allow a guide RNA to insert a changed genetic code at the sites of the incision.

While there are a few ways to effect such changes, the CRISPR system is believed to be fast and the most versatile of all.

Addressing the gathering of doctors, experts, and healthcare professionals, Mr. Oram said the Union government was committed to working on the sickle cell disease eradication mission and called for officials from across Ministries and departments to ensure that grassroots workers were roped in for the implementation process and that they should themselves engage with them.

Following the addresses by senior officials and the Minister, a series of technical panel discussions were also held on recognising and screening for sickle cell disease, managing the disease, and other issues.

DGCA issues advisory on gender equality

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued an advisory to airlines and airports to adopt measures to promote gender equality, and recommended measures such as return-to-work policies for women on a career break, training programmes for cabin crew to help them diversify their skills, and leadership and mentorship programmes for women.

The safety regulator said its advisory aims to increase the representation of women in various positions in the aviation sector to 25% by 2025, which is also the call given by the International Air Transport Association under its 25by2025 global best practices.

Organisations have also been urged to implement government laws on the provision of maternity leave and creche facilities, and develop measures to hire women back after a break in service due to parenting needs.

The regulator has also asked them to develop a zero tolerance policy towards sexual harassment, and train employees to dispel biases against women.

Two militants killed in J&K gunfight; man held over Reasi attack

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The militants were engaged in a battle with security forces in Hadipora of north Kashmir's Sopore

Two unidentified militants were killed and two security personnel injured in a gunfight at Sopore in north Kashmir on Wednesday.

In a related development, the Jammu and Kashmir Police said a major breakthrough was made in the case of attack in Reas, which left nine pilgrims dead on June 9, with the arrest of a local man who allegedly "provided logistic support to militants".

An Army spokesperson said the security forces, including the J&K Police and the Army, launched an anti-militancy operation in Sopore following "specific intelligence input regarding the presence of terrorists".

The militants were encircled and engaged in a gunfight in the Hadipora area. "Two terrorists have been killed in the encounter. Incriminating materials, arms and ammunition were recovered," the police said.

Security agencies said they were in the process of identifying the militants and their affiliation.

Two security personnel, an Army jawan and a policeman, were injured in the gunfight. The condition of the injured was said to be stable.

Earlier in the day, educational institutions in the Hadipora area were closed in the wake of the ongoing search operation.

It is the second encounter with militants in north Kashmir in the past three days.

The J&K Police said they have arrested an overground worker, Hakam Din (40), a Rajouri resident who provided logistics support to the militants in the Reasi attack. He has been categorised as a "militant associate".

"Hakam Din acted as a guide, took the terrorists to the spot through the forests and managed to take them back through a similar route," Mohita Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP), Reasi, said.

In a separate case, a local man who fled with a service rifle from a police officer on Tuesday was arrested in Doda.

PM inaugurates Nalanda University campus in Bihar

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday inaugurated the new campus of Nalanda University, an international university, close to the site of the ancient ruins of Nalanda at Rajgir in Bihar.

Asserting that Nalanda is a symbol of India's academic heritage and vibrant cultural exchange, Mr. Modi said, "Nalanda is the proclamation of this truth that books may burn in the flames of fire, but the flames of fire cannot destroy knowledge. Nalanda is an identity, respect, and pride."

Glorious expanse: The campus of Nalanda University has an amphitheatre that can seat 2,000 people. @ICHIRAGPASWAN/X

Wide representation

He expressed his happiness over the presence of representatives of many countries for the inauguration. He said the new campus proved that Bihar was on the path of development.

Parliament established Nalanda University through the Nalanda University Act, 2010.

The Act formed the basis for implementing the decisions arrived at the second East Asia Summit in the Philippines in 2007 for the establishment of the university as an "international institution for pursuit of intellectual, philosophical, historical and spiritual studies" and at the fourth summit in Thailand in 2009.

It started functioning in 2014 from a makeshift location with 14 students and the construction work started in 2017.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and 17 Ambassadors from participating countries attended the event. Bihar Governor Rajendra Arlekar, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, Deputy CMs Samrat Choudhary and Vijay Sinha were present.

Before inaugurating the campus, the PM visited the ancient ruins of Nalanda and planted a sapling of the Bodhi tree brought from Bodh Gaya.

Nalanda University Chancellor Arvind Panagariya and Interim Vice-Chancellor Abhay Kumar Singh were present.

In his address, Mr. Modi said, "The renaissance of Nalanda University near its ancient ruins will introduce India's potential to the world. Nalanda is not just a renaissance of India's past, the heritage of many countries and Asia is linked to it. In days to come, Nalanda University will once again become a major centre for our cultural exchange."

The ancient Nalanda University was established in the 5th century and attracted students from all over the world. The ancient university flourished for 800 years before it was burnt down by invaders in the 12th century.

Hamare Baarah gets nod for release after deleting some scenes

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A poster of *Hamare Baarah*. X

After the makers of the Hindi movie *Hamare Baarah* agreed to delete certain scenes from the film and include disclaimers at certain portions, the Bombay High Court on Wednesday gave the go-ahead to release the film. The makers plan to release the movie on June 21.

The petitioner in the case has also come to a settlement against raising objections to the film's release, provided the changes suggested by the court are made in the film.

Passing the order, a Division Bench of Justices B.P. Colabawalla and Firdosh Pooniwalla listed out certain changes and disclaimers to be added in the film, and said the court will record the changes in the order.

"As per suggestions of the court, and which is agreeable to all the parties, the following changes will be made. The changes mentioned below shall be done before the film is released," the order said.

The makers of the movie have been asked to remove a certain dialogue including a verse from a religious text and add two disclaimers of 12 seconds each in the film. The court has also imposed a cost of ₹5 lakh on the makers for releasing the trailer before receiving Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) approval. The CBFC has agreed to re-certify the film based on the changes by June 20.

On Tuesday, the Bench said it watched the film starring actor Annu Kapoor and there was neither anything objectionable against the Koran nor against the Muslim community. The film instead aims at uplifting women in society, the judges said.

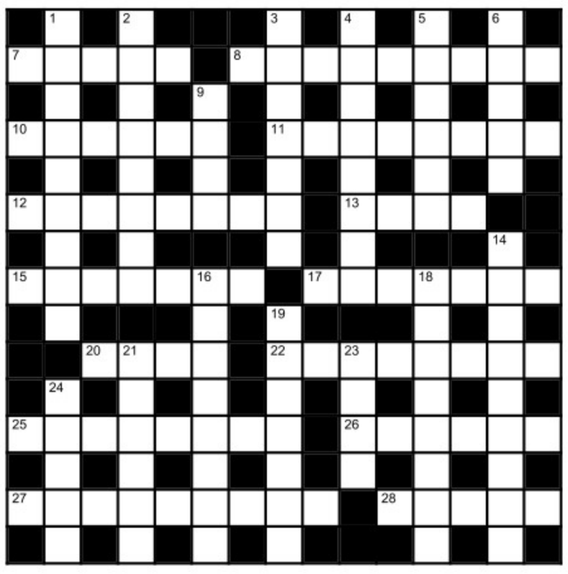
The court said the filmmakers have removed certain objectionable scenes in the first trailer. However, the court would impose a cost on them for releasing the trailer before receiving CBFC certification.

TH CROSSWORD + 14206

(set by Afterdark)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

7 Say, figures that can be seen in eyes (5)
8 Stoking rural ire about government is unconventional (9)
10 To beat is funny, so to say! (6)
11 Stokes has tea and fresh idly regularly (8)
12 Composure seen in a card game (8)
13 Thin lad fed some nutrient (4)
15 Withdraw with honour to save name (7)
17 13 without supervision can act funny, also not (7)
20 Travel-bag for event (4)
22 Sat with drink as reported (8)
25 Is holding orange juice at start (8)
26 Could be age, longing to leave society (6)
27 Advantages in setters being cryptic (9)
28 People get beer in Marks & Spencer? (5)

Down

1 Settled laptop due somehow (9)
2 Drug within iodine stops spread of endemic (8)
3 Assumed Edward will stem the rot (7)
4 Mysore's emblem maintained in duplicate (8)
5 Charge included designated driver's negligence primarily is unexpected (6)
6 Female faces troubles and collapses (5)
9 Avoid socializing primarily with crude person (4)
14 One less than majority? (9)
16 Epics rewritten with people's illustration (8)
18 Hot and relevant reading covered (8)
19 Basically tourists visit spaces built for viewpoints (7)
21 Shocked that a network's down (6)
23 Ready husband for a walk (4)
24 Medico's liquid could be tea perhaps (5)

SUDOKU

7								
		3	1		5			7
			3				2	5
	1				3			4
		8		2		6		
2			9				3	
8	4				9			
9			8		7	3		
								1

No.SS6195 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

	S	C	R	O	L	L		R	A	B	I	E	S	
	H		A		I				B		G		U	
H	A	L	T	I	N	G		C	A	N	N	E	R	Y
	V		L		E		D		T		E		V	
D	E	R	I	V	A	T	I	V	E		O	V	E	N
			N		M		S				U		Y	
	S	W	E	D	E			S	E	A	L	S	K	I	N
	M				N		I		S				N	
F	O	O	T	S	T	E	P		S	L	A	N	G	
	K		E				A		O		I			
S	E	A	R		A	N	T	I	C	H	R	I	S	T
	L		R		M		E		I		L		H	
R	E	C	I	T	A	L		C	A	P	I	T	A	L
	S		E		Z				T		F		M	
	S	O	R	R	E	L			S	E	T	T	L	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	2	7	5	9	3	4	6	1
1	6	9	8	2	4	5	3	7
3	4	5	6	1	7	9	8	2
2	3	8	9	4	5	7	1	6
9	7	6	2	3	1	8	4	5
5	1	4	7	6	8	3	2	9
4	9	3	1	7	2	6	5	8
7	5	2	3	8	6	1	9	4
6	8	1	4	5	9	2	7	3

FAITH

Mental stability vital

If there are a hundred reasons to be happy, a man can find a thousand to be unhappy, said Kidambi Narayanan in a discourse. But a jnani never loses his peace of mind. Sage Saunaka says Yudhishthira is a jnani. The reason for this, according to the sage, is that Yudhishthira's intellect is stronger than his mind. A person must have certain qualities to have a sharp intellect, says Saunaka. He must want to listen to words of wisdom, and he must actually listen to them. He must analyse what he hears. Whatever he grasps from this analysis must be retained and not forgotten. He must try to understand the meaning of things he did not know till then. He must comprehend the inner meaning and the import of any advice given by wise men. He must keep undesirable things and qualities away. If a man has these qualities, then he will be saved from the dangers that come from riches. Saunaka then recounts what Janaka had said. One can find a cure for diseases of the body. Mental unrest is more difficult to tackle. A person who is mentally disturbed can try yoga, that is uninterrupted meditation, for relief.

A lot of unhappiness comes from self-pity. We think we are the only ones suffering in this world and that everyone else is happy. Our thoughts can affect our health too, and self-pity will ruin our health.

INBRIEF

Tata Motors to increase CV prices by up to 2% from July 1

Tata Motors has announced it would increase the price of its commercial vehicles by up to 2% effective July 1. "The price increase is to offset the impact of rising commodity prices. It will be applicable across the entire range of commercial vehicles and will vary as per individual model and variant," the company said in a filing with exchanges. Tata Motors is India's market leader in commercial vehicles and ranks among the top 3 in the passenger vehicles market.

Next tranche of coal block auctions on June 21: CoalMin

Sixty coal mines will be offered in the 10th round of commercial coal mines auction to be unveiled by Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy in Hyderabad on June 21. Of these, 24 are fully explored and the remaining 36 partially explored. Additionally, five coal mines – four fully explored and one partially – will be offered under the second attempt of round 9. Also, two mines will be offered under the second attempt of round 8, the Coal Ministry said.

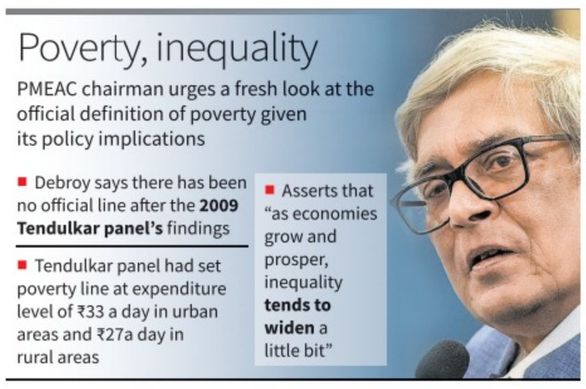
Blue Dart commences drone deliveries for e-com sector

Blue Dart Express said it had commenced drone deliveries in collaboration with Skye Air, a drone technology firm. "This move marks a significant advancement towards cleaner and more efficient delivery solutions," the company said. "Initially focusing on the growing e-commerce sector, this innovative approach is set to revolutionise last-mile delivery by offering same-day delivery for shipments, significantly reducing delivery time and environmental impact," it added.

Need to ask if decline in inequality is a good thing: Debroy

PMEAC chief pitches for a review of India's official poverty line; asserts that the Niti Aayog's Multidimensional Poverty Index 'is not a poverty line'

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI



Making a pitch to revisit India's poverty line, Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council (PMEAC) chairman Bibek Debroy on Wednesday asked whether a decline in inequality as suggested by the latest household consumption expenditure survey was a "good thing", and termed the debate over the gap between survey findings and spends measured in the national income accounts as "sterile".

"We still do not have an official poverty line that goes beyond Tendulkar," Mr. Debroy said, referring to the recommendations of a panel led by the late statistician Suresh Tendulkar at a data user conference on the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey (HCES) 2022-23 hosted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The panel had in 2009 pegged India's poverty line at an expenditure level of ₹33 a day in urban areas and ₹27 a day in rural areas.

"There was a Rangarajan [Committee that revisited the poverty threshold in 2014] but it was never officially accepted... and the MDPI [of the Niti Aayog] is not quite a poverty line," Mr. Debroy asserted. The Multidimensional Poverty Index (MDPI) is calculated using results of the National Family Health Survey.

"So, the question to ask is... should we now have a new poverty line to which these [HCES] data can be applied? And by the way, these data are not only about inequality and poverty, but they also function as inputs in various other cases," he added.

Noting that there were some "standard perennial issues" with household expenditure surveys, Mr. Debroy said a few of them were "red herrings", with the debate over it 'sterile'.

"One of those is the aggregate of consumption expenditure and the gap between that and the consumption expenditure as defined by national income accounts. That's an issue that plagues every country," he underlined.

Another debate pertained to inequality as defined by the distribution of personal incomes, although India did not officially collect such data. "It is... a fact that inequality as measured by the distribution of incomes will be a little bit higher than inequality as measured by the distribution of consumption expenditure," he said.

Mr. Debroy also "deliberately" posed two questions on the inequality debate. "On the face of it is, is it a good thing that the Gini coefficient [a measure of economic inequality] has declined? We seem to take it for granted that this is necessarily a good thing... it depends, of course, on the level of the Gini coefficient. But we all know that as economies grow and prosper, inequality tends to widen a little bit."

"The second question is... should we begin to look at Gini coefficients separately for different States," he wondered.

SBI's Khara pitches for tax relief on interest income in Budget

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

'This will help banks to garner savings that could be used for funding long-term infra projects'

State Bank of India Chairman Dinesh Kumar Khara has pitched for tax relief on interest income, saying it would help banks to garner savings that could be used for funding long-term infra projects.

Currently, banks are required to deduct tax when interest income from deposits held in all the bank branches put together is more than ₹40,000 in a year. With regard to savings accounts, interest earned up to ₹10,000 is exempt from tax.

"If at all some relief could be given in the Budget regarding tax on the interest earnings, it will be an incentive to depositors. Eventually, the banking sector uses deposits mobilised for the capital formation in the country," he told PTI in an interview.

The Full Budget for 2024-25 is likely to be presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman next month. Given the current economic growth rate, the SBI chairman is expecting 14-15% loan growth during FY24-25.

Vodafone sells 18% in Indus Towers for $1.8 bn

Reuters
MUMBAI

Vodafone sold 18% of the 21.5% stake it owns in mobile-tower operator Indus Towers for $1.83 billion on Wednesday and would use the proceeds to repay lenders for borrowings against its Indian assets.

The stake sale is more than the roughly 10% the British mobile group planned to sell earlier.

In 2022, Vodafone had said it would sell all stakes in Indus Towers.

Indus shares fell by 9.4%, before paring losses to trade down 3.9% at ₹331.

More than 615 million shares of Indus Towers changed hands across hundreds of block deals with 713 million shares traded overall, per NSE data.

Bharti Airtel said it bought 27 million shares on Wednesday, or a roughly 1% stake in Indus.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	77,338	0.04
US Dollar	83.44	-0.01
Gold	72,430	0.11
Brent oil	85.18	0.30

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	3261.90	-47.15
Adani Ports	1448.40	3.40
Apollo Hosp	6173.55	-62.80
Asian Paints	2891.70	-26.80
Axis Bank	1226.65	34.75
Bajaj Auto	9685.80	-232.40
Bajaj Finserv	1594.90	-3.05
Bajaj Finance	7233.95	-100.75
Bharti Airtel	1392.35	-36.00
BPCL	615.80	-15.10
Britannia Ind	5360.65	-35.20
Cipla	1559.80	-15.00
Coal India	477.95	-11.10
Divis Lab	4479.70	-84.80
Dr Reddys Lab	5956.20	-35.05
Eicher Motors	4880.75	-55.35
Grasim Ind	2447.15	-10.40
HCL Tech	1445.85	8.65
HDFC Bank	1657.85	50.05
HDFC Life	596.20	-5.00
Hero MotoCorp	5647.70	-107.15
Hindalco	662.40	-16.35
Hind Unilever	2457.00	-29.25
ICICI Bank	1144.45	21.60
IndusInd Bank	1528.20	20.30
Infosys	1511.35	13.15
ITC	423.65	-5.10
JSW Steel	914.95	-10.40
Kotak Bank	1746.70	27.30
L&T	3589.95	-99.25
LTIMindtree Ltd.	5019.85	-69.75
M&M	2933.85	-28.05
Maruti Suzuki	12242.10	-318.85
NestleIndia	2526.05	-24.30
NTPC	362.50	-7.15
ONGC	271.55	-4.25
PowerGrid Corp	327.30	-4.50
Reliance Ind	2917.30	-44.75
SBI Life	1449.20	-24.35
State Bank	852.60	7.70
Shriram Finance Ltd.	2791.25	-38.50
Sun Pharma	1504.00	-16.95
TataConsumerProduct	1105.60	-21.30
Tata Motors	977.35	-8.55
Tata Steel	180.02	-1.10
TCS	3801.70	-13.40
Tech Mahindra	1381.15	9.80
Titan	3462.35	-126.65
UltraTech Cement	10995.55	-123.50
Wipro	495.75	3.90

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 19

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.26	83.58
Euro	89.45	89.8
British Pound	106.03	106.44
Japanese Yen (100)	52.75	52.95
Chinese Yuan	11.47	11.52
Swiss Franc	94.05	94.41
Singapore Dollar	61.65	61.9
Canadian Dollar	60.72	60.96
Malaysian Ringitt	17.69	17.76
Australian Dollar	55.57	55.78

Source:Indian Bank

Security risks, IT costs won't impede AI progress: NetApp

Mini Tejaswi
NEW DELHI

NetApp, a data infrastructure firm, said security risks and IT costs will not impede its growth and expects its India operations to be the largest in the Asia-Pacific region in five years.

The San Jose-based firm posted global revenues of $6.5 billion last year, 20% of this was from the Asia-Pacific region.

Intelligent data

Quoting an International Data Corporation report NetApp said intelligent data infrastructure complimented the rise of AI and that 20% AI initiatives fail due to a lack of intelligent data infrastructure. "Data and Artificial Intelligence go hand-in-hand, to drive innovation among businesses. Intelligent data infrastructure plays a critical role in empowering enterprises to unlock the full potential of this technology," said Puneet Gupta, MD, NetApp India/SAARC.

In fact, it provided the foundation for managing, securing, and delivering the vast amounts of data needed for successful AI implementation, he said.

(The writer was in New Delhi at the invitation of NetApp)

ZF group sells 7.5% stake in ZF CVCS to raise liquidity

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

ZF group said it had sold 14.25 lakh equity shares, or 7.5% stake, in its listed Indian subsidiary ZF Commercial Vehicle Control Systems India to institutional investors to raise liquidity and financial flexibility for its growth plans.

The sale has no effect on ZF's control of ZF CVCS India, as it is the firm's long-term strategy to maintain a majority shareholding.

ZF CVCS India is the market-leader in the commercial vehicle supplier sector and remains an important pillar in ZF's global growth strategy.

Tata AIA Life Insurance declares ₹1,465 crore bonus

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Tata AIA Life Insurance Co. has declared ₹1,465 crore bonus for participating policyholders for FY24.

The payout is the highest and almost 24% higher than FY23's ₹1,183 crore.

"Tata AIA's record bonus announcement underscores our commitment to rewarding policyholders for their trust," Executive VP and Appointed Actuary Kshitij Sharma said on Wednesday. "Providing superior returns to the policyholders is our continuous endeavour," he added.

Strong investment management capabilities and robust risk management practices of the company had consistently resulted in higher bonuses for participating policy holders, Tata AIA said in a release.

Participating products offer life insurance cover, income, as well as regular or lump-sum benefits in the form of bonuses. Consumers can grow their investments through these solutions without taking any risks associated with market-linked investments, Tata AIA said.

The firm's Assets Under Management had doubled to ₹1 lakh crore in less than three years, it added.

Pump price disparity fuels demand for bringing petrol, diesel under GST

N. Ravi Kumar
HYDERABAD

Petrol and diesel turned dearer in Karnataka last week, but not enough to stop vehicles bound for neighbouring Telangana and Tamil Nadu tanking up in the State.

Triggering a ₹3-3.5 per litre increase was Karnataka's decision to increase sales tax on the fuels, a move aimed at mopping up additional revenue.

Even after the higher levy, the difference in per litre price of diesel works out to a little over ₹6.50 and almost ₹5.50 compared with prices in Telangana and T.N. respectively.

Petrol prices in Tamil Nadu are competitive, while the incentive for vehicles bound for Telangana to purchase in Karnataka is nearly ₹4.50 per litre, according to fuel prices published by oil companies.

Apart from benefiting the State levying comparatively lower tax, the pattern also translates into leakage of revenue for neighbouring States levying higher rates. It is not limited to retail sales as sources in the petroleum trade in Telangana say bulk diesel supplies to consumers, across the State borders, is not uncommon.

Petroleum dealers are for bringing petrol and diesel under Goods and Service Tax (GST) resulting in pricing that will uniform, barring a small variation on account of transportation costs, across the country, Consortium of Indian Petroleum Dealers leader K. Suresh Kumar said.

RAJASTHAN URJA VIKAS AND IT SERVICES LIMITED
(Formerly Known as Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd.) (A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking) Corporate Identity Number (CIN) - U40104RJ2015SGC048738 Regd. Office - Vidyut Bhawan, Janpath, Jyoti Nagar, Jaipur-302005 Work Office at: 1st Floor, HUDCO Building, Jyoti nagar, Jaipur- 302005, E-mail:ce.RUVNL@rajasthan.gov.in; Website: www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/RUVNL

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Online bids are invited to procure upto 500 MW power w.e.f 20:00 to 24:00 hrs in July 2024 and 250 MW power w.e.f 00:00 to 02:00 Hrs during July 2024 on short term basis from various Generators/ State Utilities/ CPPs/ Distribution Licensees/ SEBs/ Trading Licensees as per specification under TN-25/RUVITL/FY 2024-25. May visit website **www.mstcecommerce.com/, www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/ruvks/#/home/dptHome** for further details.

Raj.Samwad/C/24/904 RUVITL/PR-73 (2024) Superintending Engineer (PP)

JAIPUR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
Indira Circle, Jawahar Lal Nehru Marg, Jaipur-302004

No.: JDA/EST./ACTT./2024-25/D-418 Date : 18.06.2024

NOTICE INVITING E-BID

Short Term NIB No.: DC(Admn.)-01/2024-25

Online Bids are invited for Providing service of Various Types of Labourersie Supervisor (Highly Skilled), Security Men (Skilled), IVth Class/Chaprasi (Unskilled Labour) Services. Estimated yearly cost of which is Rs. 17.00 Crore. UBN No. JDA2425SLOB00029. The last date for Applying Bid and making online payment on JDA Portal is up-to 05:00 PM of 28.06.2024. Details may be seen in the Bidding Document at our office or the State Public Procurement Portal website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in

To participate in the bid, bidder has to be :-

1. Registered on JDA website www.jda.rajasthan.gov.in, For participating in the bid, the bidder has to apply for the bid and pay the Bidding Document Fee, RISL Processing Fee and Bid Security Deposit online only.

2. Registered on e-Procurement Portal of Government of Rajasthan www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in for online e-Bid submission.

Raj.Samwad/C/24/842 **Deputy Commissioner (Admn.)**

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
49, East Wing , 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan, Race Course Road,Bengaluru-560 001.
Phone No. 080-22265383. website : www.kiadb.in, e-Mail: cdoce1@kiadb.in

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-03/184/2024-25 Date:19.06.2024

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the work mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors holding valid Class-I (Civil) issued from KPWD, Government of Karnataka, who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical manpower & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the work: Development of Tree Park at NGEF Industrial Area at Baiyappanahalli, Bengaluru Rural District.

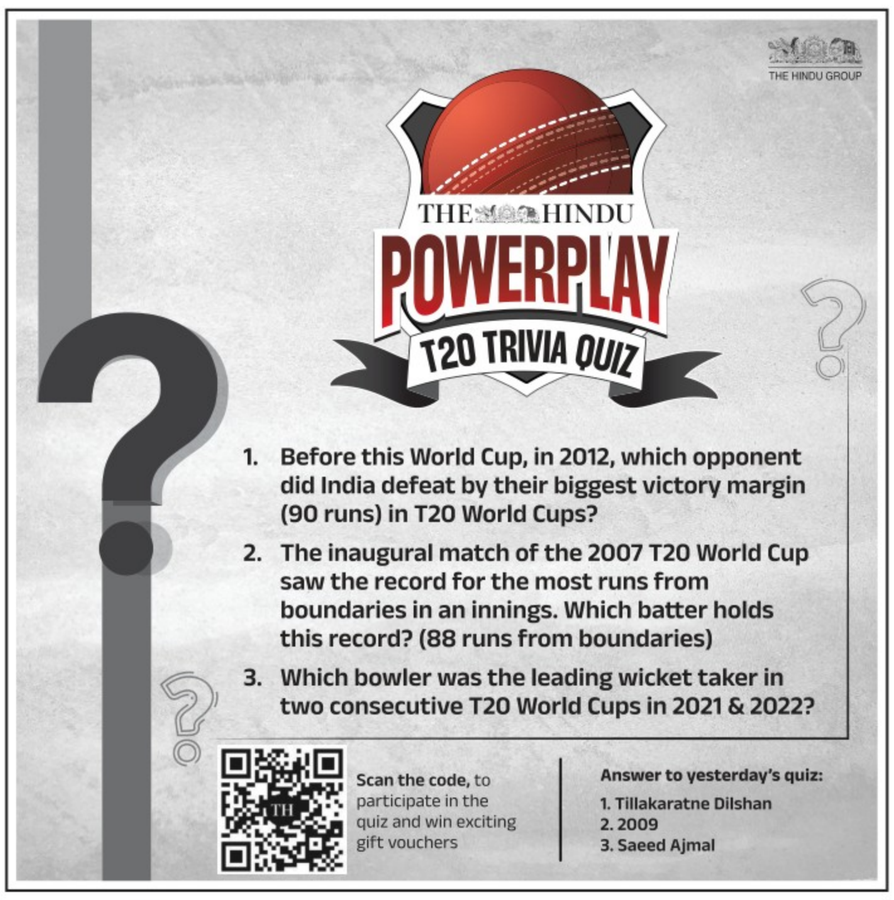
Scheduled of dates are as follows:

Last date for submission of bids is : **05.07.2024 upto 04:30 pm**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the E-Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 1

DIPR/CP/JA/434/2024-25



PRETORIA

South Africa's Ramaphosa sworn in for second full term as President

AFP

South Africa's Cyril Ramaphosa was sworn in for a second full term as President after his weakened African National Congress (ANC) struck a hard-won government coalition deal to remain in power. The 71-year-old Ramaphosa is expected to announce his cabinet in the coming days, as talks with coalition members continue. AFP

YANGON

Myanmar authorities arrest 22 for marking Suu Kyi's birthday

AP

Myanmar authorities arrested 22 people for marking the birthday of imprisoned democracy figurehead Aung San Suu Kyi on Wednesday. The police in Mandalay, Myanmar's second-largest city, arrested 22 people who had posted pictures of themselves wearing flowers in their hair — long a signature Suu Kyi look. AFP

OTTAWA

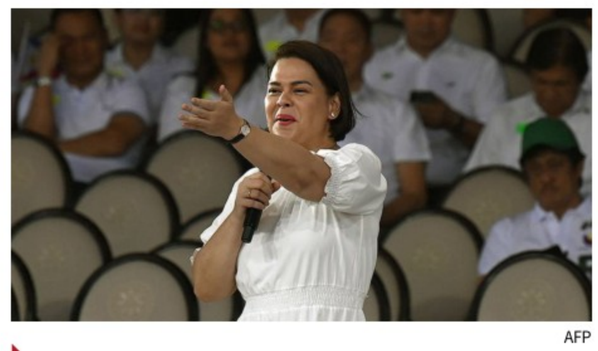
Iran's Revolutionary Guards declared terrorist group by Canada

REUTERS

Ottawa on Wednesday listed Iran's Revolutionary Guards as a terrorist entity, while calling on Canadians in the Islamic country to leave. "Our government has made the decision to list the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps as a terrorist entity under the Criminal Code," Public Safety Minister Dominic LeBlanc said. AFP

MANILA

Philippine V-P Sara Duterte quits Cabinet ahead of midterm election



AFP

Philippine Vice-President Sara Duterte said on Wednesday she has resigned from the Cabinet of President Ferdinand Marcos, with tense relations between the two families turning into a public rift in recent months. Ms. Duterte gave no clear reason for her move but she leaves her post as Education Minister too. AFP

Russia, N. Korea sign defence pact, vow to assist each other if attacked

Kim says the two countries have a 'fiery friendship,' and that the deal is the 'strongest ever treaty' between them; Putin's visit to Pyongyang comes amid U.S. criticism that the North is supporting Moscow in its war on Ukraine with arms supplies

Associated Press
SEOUL

Russian President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un on Wednesday signed a new partnership that includes a vow of mutual aid if either country faces "aggression," in a pact that came as both face escalating stand-offs with the West.

Details of the deal were not immediately clear, but it could mark the strongest connection between Moscow and Pyongyang since the end of the Cold War. Both leaders described it as a major upgrade of their relations, covering security, trade, investment and cultural and humanitarian ties.

Mutual beneficiaries: Vladimir Putin and Kim Jong-un exchange documents at a signing ceremony in Pyongyang on Wednesday. AP

The two met as Mr. Putin visited North Korea for the first time in 24 years. The summit came as the U.S. and its allies express growing concerns over a possible arms arrangement in which the country provides Moscow with badly needed munitions for its war in Ukraine in exchange for economic assistance and technology transfers that could enhance the threat posed by Kim's nuclear weapons and missile program.

Mr. Kim said the two countries had a "fiery friendship," and that the deal was the "strongest ever treaty" between them, putting the relationship at the level of an alliance. He vowed full support for Russia's war in Ukraine.

Mr. Putin said that it was a "breakthrough document" reflecting shared desire to move relations to a higher level.

North Korea and the former Soviet Union signed a treaty in 1961, which experts say necessitated Moscow's military intervention if the North came under an attack. The deal was discarded after the collapse of the USSR, replaced by a pact in 2000 that offered weaker security assurances.

Putin's foreign affairs adviser said the leaders exchanged gifts after the talks.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Mr. Putin's visit to North Korea illustrates how Russia tries, "in desperation, to strengthen relations with countries that can provide it with what it needs to continue the war of aggression that it started against Ukraine."

'Israel's use of heavy bombs in Gaza Strip violates laws of war'

Little mercy: The UN report cites the suspected use of up to 2,000-pound bombs on residential buildings and schools. AFP

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

Israel's repeated use of heavy bombs in the densely-populated Gaza Strip indicates repeated violations of the laws of war, the UN said on Wednesday, highlighting six attacks that killed at least 218 people.

In a fresh report, immediately slammed by Israel as deeply biased, the United Nations rights office provided details on the six attacks, which it said were emblematic of a concerning pattern.

They involved the suspected use of up to 2,000-pound bombs on residential buildings, a school, refugee camps and a market.

The rights office, known by the acronym OHCHR, said it had verified 218 deaths in those attacks, which were carried out in the early months of the war on October 7, but said it had information indicating the number of fatalities "could be much higher".

"The requirement to select means and methods of warfare that avoid or at the very least minimise to every extent civilian harm appears to have been consistently violated in Israel's bombing campaign," UN rights chief Volker Turk said in a statement.

The report concludes that the series of Israeli strikes, exemplified by the six attacks carried out between October 9 and December 2, suggested that Israel's military had "repeatedly violated fundamental principles of the laws of war".

Focus on Israel

Ajith Sunghay, head of OHCHR's office in the Palestinian territories, said that the report focused heavily on Israeli actions, since the weapons used by Israel's military were far more destructive.

The missiles fired by Hamas, while "absolutely unacceptable", he said, "have not caused significant killing during the war" by comparison.

The incidents detailed in the report did not include a key and controversial blast early in the war on Gaza's Al-Ahli hospital compound, where Hamas talked about hundreds killed in what they said was an Israeli strike.

Asked why this incident did not figure on the list, Mr. Sunghay suggested the team had not had enough information to include it.

Ship attacked by Yemen's Houthis sinks in Red Sea

Associated Press
DUBAI, UAE

A bulk carrier sank days after an attack by Yemen's Houthi rebels believed to have killed one mariner on board, authorities said early on Wednesday, the second ship sunk in the rebels' campaign.

The sinking of the *Tutor* in the Red Sea marks what appears to be a new escalation by the Iranian-backed Houthis in their campaign targeting shipping through the vital maritime corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

The attack comes despite a months-long U.S.-led campaign in the region that has seen the Navy face its most-intense maritime fighting since World War II, with near-daily attacks targeting commercial vessels and warship.

The Liberian-flagged, Greek-owned-and-operated *Tutor* sank in the Red Sea, the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center said in a warning to sailors in the region.

The Houthis acknowledged the sinking. The U.S. military did not acknowledge the sinking.

The *Tutor* came under attack about a week ago by a bomb-carrying Houthi drone boat in the Red Sea. John Kirby, a White House national security spokesman, said on Monday that the attack killed "a crew member who hailed from the Philippines." The Philippines has yet to acknowledge the death, but the man who had been aboard the *Tutor* has been missing for over a week in the Red Sea, which faces intense summertime heat.

9 killed, 40 injured in explosions at Chad ammunition depot

Associated Press
N'DJAMENA

Nine persons were killed and more than 40 injured when a fire set off explosions at a military ammunition depot in Chad's capital, an official said on Wednesday.

Government spokesperson Abderaman Koulamallah said 46 people were being treated for various injuries after the explosions jolted residents from their sleep late on Tuesday in the Goudji district of the capital, N'Djamena. The situation has been brought under control, Mr. Koulamallah said.

The explosions lit up the sky as thick smoke covered the clouds in the West African nation

The cause of the fire was not immediately clear, and President Mahamat Deby Itno said an investigation would be conducted.

Local media reported the blasts started just before midnight as nearby buildings shook and ammunition was thrown from the depot with explosive force.

Climate activists vandalise Stonehenge monument

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Activists spraying an orange substance at Stonehenge in England on Wednesday. AFP

Climate activists of the 'Just Stop Oil' group sprayed orange powder on to the stones of Stonehenge, the prehistoric rock monument in Wiltshire, England, on Wednesday. The attack happened a day before the summer solstice (June 20) when crowds gather at the site. The monument, thought to have been built in several stages between 3000 BCE and 1500 BCE, was likely significant, historically, as a gathering place for rituals during the summer and winter solstices, as the position of the stones aligns in specific ways with the sun's trajectory on these days. Two persons have been arrested in connection with the incident, the police said.

In a statement, the group said two of its members had "decorated" Stongehenge to demand an end to oil and gas burning and extraction by 2030. "Standing inert for generations works well for stones – not climate policy."

"Just Stop Oil is a disgrace," Prime Minister Rishi Sunak said on social media site X. "The damage done to Stonehenge is outrageous. Just Stop Oil are pathetic," said leader of the Labour Party Keir Starmer, who is the frontrunner for the Prime Minister's post.

Sport

Germany eases into the last 16; Albania dents Croatia's chances

Agence France-Presse
HAMBURG

Jamal Musiala and Ilkay Gundogan scored as Germany became the first team to qualify for the last 16 of Euro 2024 on Wednesday after beating Hungary 2-0 in Stuttgart.

Musiala struck for the second game running midway through the first half. Gundogan grabbed his side's second on 67 minutes as Germany eased to a second successive win in Group A, making sure it will progress to the knockout phase at least as one of the best third-placed sides.

Zero to hero: Gjasula, left, whose own goal put Croatia ahead scores Albania's late equaliser. AP

Earlier in Group B, Albania left Croatia in danger of a group-stage exit after a thrilling 2-2 draw as Klaus Gjasula scored at both ends, including a dramatic injury-time equaliser.

Croatia went behind when Qazim Laci gave Albania an early lead. But it improved after making two half-time substitutions and Andrej Kramaric levelled with 16 minutes remaining, before Gjasula put the ball through his own net.

The Albania midfielder became the last-gasp hero, though, slotting the ball into the bottom corner in the fifth minute of injury time to steal his team a point.

On Tuesday, Francisco Conceicao snatched Portugal a last-gasp 2-1 win over the Czechia in their Group-F opener.

The results: Group A: Germany 2 (Musiala 22, Gundogan 67) bt Hungary 0.

Group B: Croatia 2 (Kramaric 74, Gjasula 76-og) drew with Albania 2 (Laci 11, Gjasula 90+5).

Group F: Portugal 2 (Hranac 69-og, Conceicao 90+2) bt Czechia 1 (Provod 62).

Familiar foes ready to extend rivalry

Reuters
DORTMUND

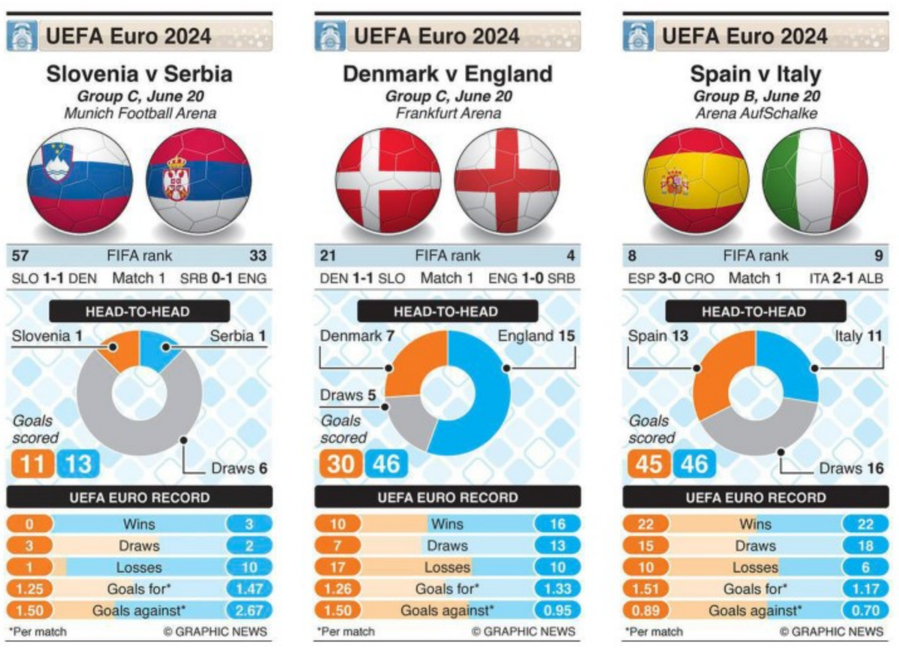
When Italy and Spain meet in Gelsenkirchen on Thursday, they will write a new chapter in what has developed into the most intense head-to-head rivalry in European Championship history.

No two countries have met more often at Euro tournaments than the *Azzurri* and *La Furia Roja* – the Red Fury – who will line up against one another for the eighth time since 1960. It will also be the fifth edition in a row that the two heavyweights have met at a European Championship.

That remarkable run began in 2008, when eventual winner Spain beat Italy in a quarterfinal. They met twice in the 2012 tournament including the final that year, which was also won by Spain.

In the most recent continental showdown, Italy downed Spain in a Euro 2020 semifinal that went to penalties.

The stakes will not be as high in Thursday's Group-B game at the Arena AufSchalke. Spain and Italy both won their opening matches and look well placed to advance into the knockout rounds.



NO DEW

Day game should help the spinners, says Afghanistan's Trott

GETTY IMAGES

The morning start in matches will aid spinners as the dew factor is eliminated, Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott stated ahead of his side's Super 8 game against India. "We have spinners with experience in T20 cricket. In a day game, the dew factor is out, so it should help the spinners," Trott said.

GAME RECOGNISES GAME

Bumrah a once-in-a-generation bowler, says Bishop

K.R. DEEPAK

Ian Bishop termed Jasprit Bumrah as once-in-a-generation bowler. "This guy is a generational bowler. He's got that unique action where the ball gets on to you a lot quicker. And that's partly why those full tosses sometimes don't get smashed because they race onto you," Bishop said.

SPIN FACTOR

Kuldeep should feature in the India XI, reckons Chawla

K.R. DEEPAK

Piyush Chawla pitched for wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav's inclusion in India's XI against Afghanistan. "100 per cent he should play. If you look at the venues, they are spin-friendly. When the squad was picked, everyone asked why four spinners and Rohit had said 'you will come to know' and he was talking about this," Chawla said.

CONFIDENCE

Coach Trott backs Gurbaz to continue his purple patch

PTI

Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott backed Rahmanullah Gurbaz to come good. The opener has been the team's standout batter, making scores of 76 and 80 in the group stage. "In T20s, the openers and No. 3 are key positions. A player like Gurbaz is willing to take over games. He's in good form and ready to go," Trott said.

Rohit's India braces for a spin test against Rashid's Afghanistan

Questions will be asked of the Men in Blue's ability to adapt to new conditions; it will be interesting to see if Kuldeep or Chahal get game time; Pant and Suryakumar's skills in countering the spinners will be the key in ensuring a smooth ride

T20 WORLD CUP

Ashwin Achal
BARBADOS

The Indian team prides itself on possessing the skills and mindset to adapt to any conditions. This will be put to the test in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup Super 8 stage, which starts with a match against Afghanistan here on Thursday.

The pitch at the Kensington Oval should please the Indian batters, who were forced to curb their attacking instincts in the group stage games at New York.

The side will have to cope with more spin-friendly conditions here. At the nets session on Tuesday, Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli took a little while to adjust to the sharp turn and grip extracted by the slow bowlers.

Suryakumar Yadav, who backs himself against spin, could be the key wicket here. "That (playing spinners) has always been my strong point. It does not matter what the conditions are or what the bowlers do, I have to adapt and play. I will bring my skillset," a confident Suryakumar said on Tuesday.

Rishabh Pant, who has grown into his new number three role, could take the match away from Afghanistan in just a few overs.

Mr. dependable: Skipper Rohit and spearhead Bumrah have a word during a training session. K.R. DEEPAK

Tempting option

It remains to be seen if India persists with the same eleven. It would be tempting to field either Yuzvendra Chahal or Kuldeep Yadav to make best use of the conditions on offer.

Afghanistan depends heavily on a three-pronged spin attack - captain Rashid Khan, Noor Ahmad and Mohammad Nabi. Afghanistan faltered in its last group stage match, against West Indies at Gros Islet on Monday. A Nicholas Pooran demolition job, punctuated by a 36-run over off pacer Azmatullah Omarzai, shut the Afghans out.

The bowlers cannot afford to make the same mistake against India, Afghanistan coach Jonathan Trott said. "Being able to pull overs back . If we don't start an over well, we should be able to get out of it (with minimal damage). We had two overs go for 60 runs (against West Indies), and that swings the game massively," Trott said.

Rashid, now a familiar foe to the Indians once again poses the major threat.

India, incidentally, has a poor T20I record at the Kensington Oval. The side has played two matches at this venue, in the 2010 ICC World Twenty20, and lost both (against Australia and West Indies).

Today's matches

England vs West Indies
St. Lucia, 6 a.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is
Played: 29
England 12 | West Indies 17

Afghanistan vs India
Barbados, 8 p.m.
HEAD-TO-HEAD T20Is
Played: 8
Afghanistan 0 | India 7 | NR 1

Only Rohit Sharma and Ravindra Jadeja are still active from that playing XI. This is the ideal chance to create happier memories.

The teams (from):

India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Hardik Pandya, Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Rishabh Pant, Sanju Samson, Shivam Dube, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Yuzvendra Chahal, Arshdeep Singh, Jasprit Bumrah, and Mohammed Siraj.

Afghanistan: Rashid Khan (Capt.), Rahmanullah Gurbaz, Ibrahim Zadran, Azmatullah Omarzai, Najibullah Zadran, Mohammad Ishaq, Mohammad Nabi, Gulbadin Naib, Karim Janat, Nangyal Kharoti, Mujeeb Ur Rahman, Noor Ahmad, Naveen-ul-Haq, Fazalhaq Farooqi, and Fareed Ahmad Malik.

Have decent memories here too: Dravid

Ashwin Achal
BARBADOS

Rahul Dravid smiles when reminded of the infamous 1997 Test match held at the Kensington Oval here. This was the game where Dravid and his India mates collapsed for 81 in pursuit of 120 against West Indies.

"We have decent memories here too," Dravid said, on the eve of India's match against Afghanistan. The 51-year-old, who made 78 and 2 in that Test, explained that he is not one to dwell on nostalgia. Asked if Thursday's game gives him a chance to erase that painful memory, Dravid replied: "I'm not trying to make new memories or anything else. I move on from things very quickly – that is one of my qualities. I look at what I'm doing at the moment."

Dravid recalled some key numbers from that game without any prompting. "I'm not concerned about 1997. But if you had told me that by winning tomorrow's game you could ensure that we scored 121 [sic; 120] instead of the 80-odd we got, then I would be interested. But even if we win tomorrow's match, that is still going to remain 80 [sic; 81] on the scorecard. However much I try and will it to happen, the scorecard will remain on 80 [sic; 81]. So I don't think back – either on the good or bad times. I don't think of myself as a player anymore," Dravid said.

Gous' heroics in vain as Proteas prevail

Fighting spirit: Gous kept USA in the hunt till the very end. AP

Press Trust of India
NORTH SOUND (ANTIGUA)

Andries Gous led a sensational fightback for USA but South Africa's experienced professionals pulled off an 18-run victory in their Group 2 Super 8 match of the T20 World Cup, here on Wednesday.

South Africa-born Gous led a stunning fightback for USA with an unbeaten 47-ball 80 studded with five sixes and as many fours to keep his side alive in the contest right until the final over.

Chasing 195 even on a batting-friendly deck here at Sir Vivian Richards Stadium was going to be a monumental task for USA against South Africa's bowling attack, but the associate nation showed incredible gumption in finishing with 176 for six in reply.

Earlier, Quinton de Kock led the charge with a 40-ball 74 which set the tone for South Africa.

On a pitch expected to be slow and spin-friendly, de Kock defied odds to put the USA bowlers to sword while bringing up his maiden fifty in the tournament.

de Kock's fireworks at the top and skipper Aiden Markram's fluent 46 also helped South Africa banish its top-order woes.

Towards the end, Heinrich Klaasen and Tristan Stubbs added 53 unbeaten runs for the fifth wicket in just five overs, and it proved crucial in the end.

The scores:
South Africa 194/4 in 20 overs (de Kock 74, Markram 46, Klaasen 36 n.o., Netravalkar 2/21, Harmeet 2/24) bt USA 176/6 in 20 overs (Gous 80 n.o., Harmeet 38, Rabada 3/18).
Toss: USA; **PoM:** de Kock.

West Indies meets England in blockbuster contest

Ayan Acharya
GROS ISLET (ST. LUCIA)

England will face co-host West Indies in their first Super Eight match of the Men's ICC T20 World Cup at the Daren Sammy Cricket Ground here on Wednesday.

Adverse weather and one-sided contests have limited England to just 33.1 overs of play so far. The defending champion will be eager for more game time in St. Lucia, the most batting-friendly venue so far. Despite passing tropical showers on match eve, the weather is likely to hold up for Wednesday's clash.

England is concerned about the fitness of all-rounder Liam Livingstone, who injured his side while batting against Namibia and did not field. In that match, England dropped batter Will Jacks for all-rounder Sam Curran, allowing Jonny Bairstow and Harry Brook to bat at No. 3 and 4, where both excelled.

If Livingstone remains unfit, Curran is well-placed to take his spot.

Vital cog: Salt's explosiveness at the top of the order might be crucial in a battle between equals. GETTY IMAGES

West Indies, playing its 200th T20I, has won eight straight games. Nicholas Pooran's eight sixes during his stunning 98 against Afghanistan helped West Indies rack up 218 for five, the highest score of the tournament so far. Pooran struggles against short lengths at high pace. England will aim to exploit this through Mark Wood and Jofra Archer, and if Pooran survives, Moeen Ali could hold key given Pooran's poor record against off-break bowling – he averages less than 30 against this form of bowling while striking at below 120 in all T20Is.

The ground dimensions, with one notably shorter square boundary and a cross-breeze, will significantly influence the game. Directing power hitters away from the shorter side will be crucial. Facing an undefeated WI before a small but raucous crowd will provide a clearer assessment of England's title prospects this year.

Men in Blue know they have a tough battle on their hands to make it to the semifinal

Sunil Gavaskar

India's group in the Super 8 stage to qualify for the semifinal is a tricky one. Afghanistan have played some superb T20 cricket in recent times and though they were beaten soundly by the hosts West Indies in their last game, they are capable of regrouping quickly and causing headaches in the Qualifiers for the semifinal spots. Bangladesh have run India close, especially in the white-ball format and they will be charged up for their clash too, for sure. So India know they have a fight on their hands to make it to the top two in their group.

As for Australia, they raise the level of their game when they play India in all formats of the game and are aware that India are still hurting after their defeat in the World Cup final last year and will be itching to return the favour. India played three of their four games on the minefield of a pitch in New York and then had a wash out in Florida, so their batters apart from Rishabh Pant haven't quite got going as yet.

Barbados has produced some of the greatest names in the history of cricket and that should be an inspiration for India to show that they too are capable of playing top-quality cricket. To get appreciation from the Barbados crowd is like winning a rare prize. Playing here will also give them an idea of what to expect from the pitch if they get to the final.

It will be a battle between the spin magicians of Afghanistan and India's batting might. Afghanistan will definitely miss Mujeeb Ur Rahman, for he is that rare spinner who is comfortable bowling in the PowerPlay. Still, with Rashid Khan and Noor Ahmad in their ranks, they know they can contain India to a reasonable score.

India, too, may look to bring in the left-hand wrist spin of Kuldeep Yadav, though the greater chances are that they will go with an unchanged playing eleven. The bowling led by Jasprit Bumrah and ably supported by Arshdeep Singh can extract bounce from the pitch if it is hard and firm. Hardik Pandya has bowled quite splendidly, using the bouncer to good effect.

With Suryakumar Yadav striking form in the game against USA the worry about the middle order has gone to a great extent as Shivam Dube also showed good understanding of the game position and was prepared to bide his time on the unpredictable New York pitch.

It's never easy to predict a T20 game and particularly against Afghanistan, who have many players who play in the T20 leagues around the world and so are quite experienced to different situations. More than anything, the team that holds its nerve should come out on top.

(Professional Management Group)

INBRIEF

Djokovic confirmed for Paris: Serbian Olympic Committee

Novak Djokovic will compete in the upcoming Paris Games, the Serbian Olympic Committee confirmed. The Serbian committee said in its announcement that Djokovic had confirmed he will play in Paris. It will be his fifth Olympics. The 37-year-old Djokovic had said surgery on his right knee "went well". The tennis events for the Paris Olympics start on July 27 at Roland Garros, the site of the French Open.

Bengaluru summer meeting to commence on June 22

The Stewards of the Bangalore Turf Club have decided to conduct the Bengaluru summer meeting races with effect from Saturday (June 22). The prospectus has been issued on the basis of an interim order passed by the High Court of Karnataka on June 18, 2024 in writ Petition No. 13503/2024 filed by the Bangalore Turf Club Limited and other connected petitions.

Regan Smith clocks 100m backstroke world record

Regan Smith clocked a world record 57.13sec to win the 100m backstroke at the US Olympic trials in Indianapolis, Indiana, on Tuesday, throwing down a challenge to Aussie Kaylee McKeown six weeks before the Paris Games. Smith eclipsed the world record of 57.33 set by McKeown in Budapest in October 2023.

Indian compound women's team assured of medal

The top-ranked Indian compound women's team confirmed a medal by reaching the final of the Archery World Cup Stage-3 in Antalya, Turkey, on Wednesday. In a field comprising only 10 countries, the trio of V. Jyothi Surekha, Aditi Swami and Parneet Kaur got a bye and beat El Salvador 235-227 and host Turkey 234-227 to set up a title clash with Estonia. The top-placed Indian men's team, consisting of Priyansh, Abhishek Verma and Prathamesh Fuge, got past Germany 234-230 and Austria 235-230 before losing to Turkey 236-236 (shoot-off 30*-30, Turkey shot closer to the centre) narrowly in the semifinals. India went down fighting to France 236-235 in the bronze medal match as well. In recurve qualification rounds, B. Dhiraj (689) emerged as the top-ranked Indian male by claiming the third spot behind two Koreans, Lee Wooseok and Kim Woojin with both scoring an identical 691. Among women, Bhajan Kaur (659), Deepika Kumari (655) and Ankita Bhakat (641) secured 10th, 16th and 45th spots respectively. The Indian men's recurve team was sixth with 2019 points, while the women's side was fifth with 1955. The country's mixed team was third with 1348 points.

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Euro 2024, Sony Sports Ten 2, 3, 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 6.30, 9.30 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Friday)

T20 World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 8 p.m. & 6 a.m. (Friday)

Hundreds galore: Smriti and Harmanpreet delighted the faithful with classy centuries before Kapp and Wolvaardt also carved out three-figure knocks to keep South Africa in the hunt. K. MURALI KUMAR

India squeaks home in a humdinger

After Smriti's career-best and Harmanpreet's belligerent tons power the host to 325, Wolvaardt and Kapp notch up centuries and put on 184 runs to propel South Africa's spirited chase before Pooja's impactful final over sees the visitor fall short by four runs

SA IN INDIA

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

India survived an almighty scare as South Africa nearly chased down a women's ODI record 326-run target before falling four runs short at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Wednesday.

Pooja Vastrakar, who bowled the last over, had 11 runs to defend, and when Nadine de Klerk (28, 22b, 2x4, 1x6) edged the second ball past short-third for four, it seemed all over.

But Pooja dismissed de Klerk and Nondumiso Shangase off consecutive deliveries – both slower balls – to leave skipper and centurion Laura Wolvaardt (135 n.o., 135b, 12x4, 3x6) stranded at the other end.

A bye off the penultimate delivery brought Wolvaardt on strike.

The day in numbers

It was the first time India crossed 300 in a home ODI. It is India's third-highest total in ODIs after the 358 for two vs. Ireland in 2017 and 333 for five vs. England in 2022

Smriti's 136 is her best score in ODIs. She is also the first Indian to hit back-to-back centuries in women's ODIs. Her seventh century ties her with Mithali Raj as the joint-highest century-maker for India

This is the first time a Women's ODI match saw four centurions

Wolvaardt scored her maiden hundred against India, her eighth overall in ODIs, and fifth as captain

Kapp became the third woman to take 150+ wickets and score 3000+ runs in Women's ODIs after West Indies' Stafanie Taylor and Australia's Ellyse Perry

But with five needed for victory, Pooja bowled a dot ball to put India ahead 2-0 in the series. Things seemed to be going extremely well for the host as Smriti Mandhana's career-best 136 (120b, 18x4, 2x6) and Harmanpreet Kaur's belligerent 103 not out (88b, 9x4, 3x6) had ensured a mammoth total.

In reply, the visitor was even reduced to 67 for three in the 15th over, with Smriti claiming her first-ever ODI wicket.

But a 184-run partnership between Wolvaardt and Marizanne Kapp (114, 94b, 11x4, 3x6), and a 69-run association between Wolvaardt and de Klerk brought South Africa close.

Debutant quickie Arundhati Reddy, who replaced Renuka Singh and bowled a fine first spell, will heave a sigh of relief that the dropped chance of Wolvaardt at long-off when on 88 didn't prove costly.

Acceleration

Earlier, the Indian innings in general, and Smriti's in particular, were masterclasses in acceleration. India scored five runs from the first four overs, reached 47 after 15, 207 after 40 before finishing on 325. Smriti, at one stage, was on 19 from 40 deliveries, brought up her half-century from 67, hundred off 103 before ending on 136 from 120 balls.

If her century in the first ODI was meticulously crafted, Wednesday's was effervescent. On a batting-friendly strip, Smriti pulled, drove and cut in majestic fashion. She also achieved perfect symmetry – 68 runs and 10 hits to the boundary each on the off and leg-sides.

Harmanpreet wasn't as refined and clear-cut but was equally effective. She scored almost two-thirds of her runs on the on-side, with the cross-batted club to cow corner her money shot. The manner in which she reached the three-figure mark was breathtaking as she smashed left-arm spinner Nonkululeko Mlaba for two fours and a six in the last over.

South Africa was shoddy in the field, dropping as many as three catches, fluffing two run-outs and a stumping. Smriti was reprieved on 69 and Harmanpreet on 41 and 88, mistakes that cost the tie.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA

Smriti Mandhana c Brits b Mlaba 136 *(120b, 18x4, 2x6)*, Shafali Verma c Klaas b Mlaba 20 *(38b, 3x4)*, D. Hemalatha c Bosch b Klaas 24 *(41b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Harmanpreet Kaur (not out) 103 *(88b, 9x4, 3x6)*, Richa Ghosh (not out) 25 *(13b, 3x4, 1x6)*; Extras (b-1, lb-2, w-14): 17; Total (for three wkts. in 50 overs): 325.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-38 (Shafali, 11.4 overs), 2-100 (Hemalatha, 22.6), 3-271 (Smriti, 45.4).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Khaka 10-2-51-0, Klaas 10-0-67-1, de Klerk 8-1-50-0, Mlaba 10-0-51-2, Shangase 6-0-57-0, Bosch 1-0-10-0, Luus 5-0-36-0.

SOUTH AFRICA

Laura Wolvaardt (not out) 135 *(135b, 12x4, 3x6)*, Tazmin Brits b Arundhati 5 *(11b, 1x4)*, Anneke Bosch c Rodrigues b Deepti 18 *(23b, 3x4)*, Sune Luus c Richa b Smriti 12 *(13b, 2x4)*, Marizanne Kapp c Pooja b Deepti 114 *(94b, 11x4, 3x6)*, Nadine de Klerk c Arundhati b Pooja 28 *(22b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Nondumiso Shangase c Harmanpreet b Pooja 0 *(1b)*, Meike de Ridder (not out) 0 *(1b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-4, w-4): 9; Total (for six wkts. in 50 overs): 321.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-14 (Brits, 3.2), 2-54 (Bosch, 11.3), 3-67 (Luus, 14.2), 4-251 (Kapp, 42.4), 5-320 (de Klerk, 49.3), 6-320 (Shangase, 49.4).

INDIA BOWLING

Pooja 7-0-54-2, Arundhati 8-0-62-1, Deepti 10-1-56-2, Radha 10-0-52-0, Smriti 2-0-13-1, Asha 9-0-53-0, Shafali 4-0-26-0.

Toss: S. Africa. **PoM:** Harmanpreet.

India won by four runs, leads series 2-0.

Williamson steps down as white-ball captain, declines national contract

Press Trust of India
CHRISTCHURCH

Kane Williamson has decided to forego a national contract for 2024-25 and also stepped down from white-ball captaincy in a bid to extend his international career.

The news comes a couple days after New Zealand's shock early exit from the T20 World Cup.

"Helping push the team forward across the formats is something I'm very passionate about and I want to keep contributing towards," the 33-year-old said in a NZC release on Wednesday. "However, pursuing an overseas opportunity during the New Zealand summer means I'm unable to accept a central contract offer."

Williamson. GETTY IMAGES

The Black Caps have very little international cricket scheduled during the January window and Williamson will be available to play all three formats outside that month.

"Playing for New Zealand is something I treasure, and my desire to give back to the team remains undiminished," he said. "My life outside cricket has changed. Spending more time with my family is something that's even more important to me."

The Black Caps are scheduled to compete in eight Tests, including a tour of India and then a three-match home series against England in November-December, before Christmas. Players accepting NZC central contracts must be available for both international and domestic competition.

Messi takes centre stage again as Argentina gets ready for title defence

COPA AMERICA

Agence France-Presse
ATLANTA

World champion Argentina gets an expanded Copa America under way on Thursday with Lionel Messi looking to add a second continental title in what is almost certainly his final appearance in the tournament.

The 108-year-old competition is being held in the United States with the host nation among six teams from the CONCACAF region joining the 10 South American nations looking for a place in the July 14 final in Miami.

Argentina has won the Copa 15 times but only once, in 2021, during the Messi era and coach Lionel Scaloni has stuck largely with his World Cup-winning squad, with veterans Angel Di Maria and Nicolas Otamendi likely taking their final bow in a major tournament.

What is certain is that Messi, who has managed his workload to try to be in peak condition for the tournament, would relish the chance to win a third straight major tournament with his country after so many years of frustration with his national team.

After facing Canada, Argentina takes on Chile in New Jersey before finishing its group A action against Peru in Miami but it knows that tough opposition awaits in the knock-out stage with rivals Brazil and Uruguay the two expected challengers for the title.

Last dance? With Messi turning 37 soon, fans will wonder if this edition is the final one that he turns out in national colours. AP

Brazil has struggled in CONMEBOL qualifiers for the 2026 World Cup having won just two of its opening six games and currently sits in sixth place in the standings having lost to Uruguay, Colombia and Argentina.

There are several familiar names missing from Dorival Junior's Brazil squad with Casemiro, Gabriel Jesus and Thiago Silva left out while Richarlison and Neymar are both missing due to injury.

The pressure will be on the Real Madrid attacking pair of Vinicius Junior and Rodrygo to translate their club form into success for the Selecao while there is much excitement around the senior tournament debut of 17-year-old talent Endrick.

Uruguay impresses

Uruguay, also a 15-time winner, has impressed under its 68-year-old Argentina coach Marcelo Bielsa, who has brought his trademark high-energy style to the team and raised expectations with recent wins over Argentina and Brazil.

Liverpool forward Darwin Nunez will lead the line although Bielsa has the option of introducing Luis Suarez from the bench.

Indian tennis teams clinch bronze medals at the BRICS Games

Sports Bureau

The Indian women and men won bronze medals in tennis at the BRICS Games in Kazan, Russia.

The women beat Republika Srpska 2-0 in the third place play-off on Wednesday. Vaishnavi Adkar bounced back to beat Sara Mikaca 6-7(5), 7-5, 6-2 before Akanksha Nitture sealed the medal with a 6-3, 6-0 win over Anastasija Ignatic. The Indian women had been beaten in the semifinals by Belarus, which eventually finished runner-up to Russia.

Good show: The Indian teams with coach Ankita Bhambri. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Indian men beat Uzbekistan 2-0 for the bronze, with Karan Singh and Chirag Duhan winning against Amir Milushev and Ilya Ignatov respectively.

The results: Men: Third place: India bt Uzbekistan 2-0 (Karan Singh bt Amir Milushev 3-6, 6-2, 6-4; Chirag Duhan bt Ilya Ignatov 7-6(5), 6-4).

Women: Third place: India bt Republika Srpska 2-0 (Vaishnavi Adkar bt Sara Mikaca 6-7(5), 7-5, 6-2; Akanksha Nitture bt Anastasija Ignjatic 6-3, 6-0).

Semifinals: Belarus bt India 2-0 (Evaina Laskevich bt Vaishnavi 6-1, 6-2; Darya Khamutsianskaya bt Akanksha 6-3, 6-7(7), 6-2).

Thompson-Herah to miss 200m at Olympics

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Elaine Thompson-Herah will not attempt a triple Olympic sprint double at Paris Games after not registering for the 200m at the Jamaican national championships. She won both 100m and 200m golds at the 2016 Rio Olympics and 2021 Tokyo Games.